

Jordan Times

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Algerian Gulf peace mission fails

LONDON (R) — Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim left Tehran Tuesday after his apparent failure to persuade Iran's clerical leaders to soften their stand on ending the Gulf war. Although Gulf newspapers said Mr. Ibrahim's visit was aimed at mediating an end to the 28-month-old conflict, Iran's official media remained silent on this aspect of his mission. Tehran radio said the Algerian minister had only discussed economic issues with Iranian leaders as well as the situation in the Middle East during his two-day visit.

Arafat to visit Jordan next week

AMMAN (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is expected in Jordan next week for talks with King Hussein on the results of the King's recent visit to the United States. Palestinian sources said Tuesday. Jordanian and U.S. officials have given few details of the outcome of King Hussein's visit. But President Reagan said when it ended that peace in the Middle East was now within reach. King Hussein went to Austria for a private visit after his talks in Washington and is expected back in Jordan shortly.

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India optimistic about outcome of non-aligned summit

NEW DELHI (R) — India is cautiously optimistic about the outcome of the seventh summit meeting of non-aligned nations to be held in New Delhi in March. External Affairs Secretary Natwar Singh told reporters that India was adopting a realistic approach to the conference, which faces many divisive issues, including the Gulf war and the presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan and Kampuchea. He said the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan was expected to figure prominently on the agenda. He would go to Kabul and Islamabad this month to discuss the summit with Afghan leaders. Mr. Singh said there were differences within the movement on Afghanistan, Kampuchea and the Iran-Iraq war, but there was consensus on issues like Namibia's independence and economic cooperation between the non-aligned countries.

Intercommunal talks in Cyprus postponed

NIKOSIA (R) — Intercommunal talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, scheduled to re-start Tuesday after a Christmas recess, have been postponed, a United Nations spokesman said Tuesday. The postponement was to enable the U.N.'s special representative in Cyprus, Hugo Gombi, to work on a new assignment from Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar concerning human rights in Poland, the spokesman said. Mr. Gombi will return to Cyprus for a resumption of the intercommunal talks tentatively set for Jan. 13. The spokesman said there will be two further meetings before the Cyprus presidential elections on Feb. 13. But substantial discussions are not expected to resume until after the election, even though the key question of territorial division has now moved to the top of the current agenda.

Israeli president on private visit to Washington

WASHINGTON (R) — Israeli President Yitzhak Navon arrived in Washington Tuesday for a private visit during which he will have talks with President Reagan on the Middle East. U.S. officials were careful to note that the talks would be general, with views exchanged on a variety of topics, but that policy sessions must await Prime Minister Menachem Begin's visit. Although Mr. Navon is a member of the Israeli Labour Party and a potential rival to Prime Minister Begin, his largely ceremonial post is considered above politics. U.S. officials are expected to take pains to avoid any impression that Washington is backing Mr. Navon against Mr. Begin, with whom the Reagan administration has serious differences on Middle East policy.

Cold weather kills 138 people in northern India

NEW DELHI (R) — Cold weather sweeping northern India has killed at least 138 people in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar states, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Tuesday. PTI said people had mostly died from exposure to low temperatures which in parts dipped below freezing. The weather bureau has forecast that the 12-day cold spell will continue.

Pentagon informs of plans to sell arms to Turkey

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon has informed Congress of plans to sell Turkey a variety of military equipment for four new frigates to be built for Turkey. It told Congress that the equipment, valued at \$275 million, includes radar, navigational gear, missile systems and torpedo tubes. It will be fitted on two frigates to be built for Turkey in West Germany and two to be built in Turkey itself. Congress has 30 days to veto major foreign arms sales.

Tripoli fighting rages for 5th day running

BEIRUT (R) — Artillery exchanges and small-arms fire shook the north Lebanese port of Tripoli Tuesday as pro- and anti-Syrian groups clashed for the fifth day running.

There were no reliable details of casualties in the day's battles, the latest in a long-running series which killed more than 180 people last year. Newspaper reports estimated casualties Monday at between 12 and 19 dead with at least 30 others wounded. State radio said the rival factions were using artillery and rocket-propelled grenades in Tuesday's battles and previously quiet areas of the city had come under fire.

U.S. senator arrives in Amman today

By Samira Kassar Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas (Democrat, Massachusetts) will arrive here Wednesday for a 2-day visit during which he is expected to meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and senior officials.

Senator Tsongas, who is a member of the Senate Foreign

Relations Committee, will have visited Egypt and Israel before coming to Jordan. He is visiting the region to discuss the next steps in the peace process with Middle East leaders. American embassy officials told the Jordan Times on Tuesday.

Arriving with Senator Tsongas will be seven members of the Bnai Brith Anti-Defamation League. The League is interested in the achievement of a Middle East

peace and its delegation was also touring Egypt and Israel before coming to Jordan. The Bnai Brith Anti-Defamation League was organized to protect Jews in the U.S., who during the first half of the century were struggling against widely prevalent white racism. It is reported that the league now has some 500,000 members, 1/3 of which is one out of every 12 American Jews.

estonian forces from Lebanon. Syrian troops and local groups supporting them have frequently clashed with a variety of militias opposing the Syrian presence. Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan telephoned Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Rauf Al Kasem Monday night to ask him to intervene to try to stop the latest fighting.

State radio said Tuesday that Tripoli's leading politician, Rashid Karami, left for Damascus Tuesday morning and a Syrian military team was expected in Tripoli Tuesday. Last month, Syria sent a delegation including its Foreign and Defence Ministers to Tripoli, but a ceasefire negotiated then quickly broke down.

Danish fishermen to defy British law

ESBJERG, Denmark (R) — More than 100 Danish trawlers braved north sea storms Tuesday as they headed for a possible showdown with patrolling British vessels in rich fishing grounds off northeastern England and Scotland.

Danish skippers have said they would risk arrest by defying new British fishing regulations excluding them from British territorial waters.

But gales and high seas in the North Sea have prevented Danish trawlers from casting their nets since New Year's Day and kept smaller ships at home, harbour authorities said.

Britain imposed its new rules on Jan. 1 after Denmark blocked the new Common Market fisheries

agreement and demanded extra fishing rights, mostly in British waters. Only Denmark is excluded by the measures as its nine Common Market partners agreed to formulate national fishing rules based on proposals made in June by the community's executive commission, the European Community, a Fisheries Ministry official said.

As a result, Danish trawlers were being prevented from fishing the so-called "Shetlands box" near the Shetland Islands and from rich mackerel grounds off western Scotland.

They also face fines of up to £50,000 (\$80,000) and confiscation of their fishing gear if caught working inside Britain's

12-mile territorial limit. The European Commission is scheduled to meet Tuesday to study alternative measures drafted by member states.

The Danish government has urged Denmark's 11,000 full-time fishermen not to provoke Britain while the European Community searched for a solution.

But Kent Kirk, a Danish trawler owner and Conservative member of the European Parliament, sailed Tuesday into the North Sea, apparently intent on forcing a showdown.

Mr. Kirk intends to fish sprat, a small variety of herring, off northeast England. He told Reuters he would follow the fish even if it led him inside Britain's 12-mile exclusion zone.

Israel accuses Syria of building new missile sites

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel accused Syria Tuesday of building two sites capable of firing a large Soviet ground-to-air missile never before deployed in the Middle East.

A brief army statement said the sites were being developed deep inside Syria for SA-5 missiles, but it did not give the locations.

It said the sites were not yet occupied, apparently meaning Moscow had not delivered missiles, but Israel would continue to "observe and research."

The army also announced it had found another batch of four Katyusha rockets—much smaller weapons that spread panic through Israel's northern settlements—across the border in southern Lebanon. Five others were discovered last Friday.

The SA-5 is 16.5 metres long with a range of over 160 kilometres and can carry a nuclear tip to destroy enemy ballistic missiles, according to Western experts.

It is far bigger than the SAM-6 missiles Syria deployed in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley in 1981. Israel destroyed the SAM-6 batteries in a mass air attack during the first week of its invasion of Lebanon last June.

An Israeli military source said the army did not believe Moscow had yet delivered SA-5s to Syria. He added that the missiles would be capable of attacking Israeli planes overflying Lebanon.

Israel insists on its right to patrol south Lebanese skies. Last year Defence Minister Ariel Sharon warned Damascus not to build up large anti-aircraft batteries on Syrian territory just across the Lebanese border.

"The very fact the statement has been issued like this seems to

be an implicit Israeli threat," one Western diplomat said. Hebrew-language newspapers splashed reports that Katyusha rockets had been found in South Lebanon six months after Israel invaded to root out Palestinian commandos from frontier strongholds.

The Israeli government has justified the war on the grounds it had made upper Galilee safe from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) cross-border rocket bombardments.

But Monday the army said five Katyusha launchers were found by Israeli forces in Majdal Siliim Friday. The hill village is just across the frontier from Kiryat Shmona, where Israeli, Lebanese and U.S. negotiators met the previous day.

In 1981, thousands of people fled Kiryat Shmona when it came under a Katyusha barrage.

An army spokesman said four more rockets had been found near the South Lebanese town of Sidon but were apparently aimed at an Israeli base.

Hebrew newspapers reported the army was taking a serious view of the Katyusha discoveries.

Not since the first weeks of the Lebanon war has the army reported finding Katyushas, although vast stockpiles of PLO weapons and ammunition have been brought back into Israel.

A spokesman for United Nations peace-keeping forces in South Lebanon said they had an unconfirmed report that the Katyushas in Majdal Siliim were concealed in a bush and found by a village woman.

"The terrain in South Lebanon is capable of concealing almost any weapon," the spokesman added.

Oman grants amnesty for nationals living in S. Yemen

BAHRAIN (R) — Oman Tuesday announced a four-month amnesty for its citizens to return home from neighbouring South Yemen, which has in the past given refuge to left-wing Omani rebels.

The official Oman Press Agency said Oman had decided that all nationals in South Yemen could be repatriated until April 30 because the government wanted to provide "a free, comfortable and dignified life for Omani nationals."

The grace period was offered following a declaration of principles signed in Kuwait on Oct. 27 aimed at ending 15 years of feud and tension between the South Arabian states.

W. German opposition candidate flies to Washington today

BONN (R) — West Germany's main opposition party candidate flies to Washington Wednesday and next week to Moscow, in a bid to boost his political stature prior to general elections expected on March 6.

On the Washington leg of his trip, Hans-Jochen Vogel, the Social Democratic (SPD) candidate for chancellor, will also have the tricky task of explaining why his party is apparently backing away from the nuclear arms policy adopted by his predecessor and former chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

It was Mr. Schmidt who, in 1979, signed a NATO agreement committing West Germany to accept deployment of new U.S. medium-range missiles later this year, if the Soviets refused to dismantle similar weapons systems. But in the last few weeks, Mr.



The rubble left from the seven-storey apartment building which collapsed in Diyarbakir, Turkey on Monday (A.P. wirephoto).

7-storey building collapses in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — The bodies of 39 people have been pulled from the wreckage of a seven-storey apartment building which collapsed Monday in the southeastern Turkish city of Diyarbakir, state radio said Tuesday.

It said at least 35 people were injured when the recently-completed building collapsed early Monday as most of the 28 families living in it were asleep.

Local officials said most of the victims were women and children. The coldest winter temperatures for 50 years, dipping to around minus 40 degrees centigrade, were hampering rescue teams still struggling to remove the debris, the radio said.

Officials said the building had been certified unfit for occupation but an order for its demolition was never carried out. The building's owner, who sold and leased flats there despite the demolition order, had been detained and an official inquiry had begun, they said.

Israeli officer confirms beating Arab detainees

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli soldiers routinely beat up Palestinian detainees on the occupied West Bank with the knowledge of senior officers, a court martial was told Tuesday.

Captain Mordechai Artzi, a professional soldier who served in the area for five years, testified that he had personally beaten Palestinian detainees.

"It was nothing special. Anyone who served there can tell the same story. It has been going on for years. All the officers knew about it and kept their mouths shut," he said.

Captain Artzi was testifying for the defence at the trial of seven soldiers, including the deputy military governor of Hebron, accused of brutally mistreating West Bank Palestinians in March last year.

The events are alleged to have taken place during unprecedented West Bank violence after Israeli occupation authorities dismissed several leading Palestinian mayors in a crackdown on Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) supporters.

Captain Artzi said the army's policy was to crush the resistance "with a strong arm."

"We were told to collect them, 150 or 200 at a time, whoever

happened to be around. It didn't matter if they had demonstrated or not. We brought them back to headquarters for questioning," he said.

The court martial, which is attracting increasing attention in Israel, has for the first time thrown light on the methods used by the occupation authorities to crush resistance.

The deputy governor, Maj. David Morfaz, testified last week that the orders to beat up Arabs came from the chief of staff.

At Tuesday's session, the military prosecutor tried to prove there were no such orders and that Maj. Morfaz beat up detainees on his own initiative.

The prosecutor read out the army's standing orders, saying no soldier was under any circumstances to strike local West Bank residents.

But Maj. Morfaz stuck to his story. "When a senior officer ordered us to deal with detainees, we understood from the spirit behind the words that we had to beat them," he said.

Maj. Morfaz testified last week he was told by a legal advisor in the Defence Ministry that Defence Minister Ariel Sharon gave orders to "rip the testicles off Palestinian trouble makers."

Despite fierce cross-examination, Maj. Morfaz refused to withdraw his evidence.

The defence brought two Palestinian students, both aged 18, to testify that Maj. Morfaz had not beaten them as alleged by the prosecution.

The court martial was adjourned for two weeks.

Louisiana volunteers prepare defences against floods

MONROE, Louisiana (R) — Homeowners and volunteers took advantage of good weather Tuesday to prepare sandbag defences against the rain-swollen Ouachita River around Monroe in non-eastern Louisiana.

The rains, which began on Christmas Eve and continued until New Year's Day, have forced about 10,000 people in the state to leave their homes.

With no rain forecast until Friday at least, the focus of dyke-building and sandbagging operations Tuesday switched to the area around Monroe as northern parts of the state began to dry out.

Officials said they expected the level of the Ouachita to peak on Thursday at about 50 feet (15 metres), seven feet (two metres) above flood level. This would be a little below the tops of the dykes

surrounding many residential areas in Monroe, a city of 60,000 people near the Mississippi River. But the low-lying bayous, or swamp basins, are full and draining sluggishly. New water coming down the Ouachita has nowhere to go but to areas that so far have been dry.

President Reagan, who flew to Monroe on Sunday, said he expected to be able to approve federal aid for the parts of the state designated disaster areas by governor David Treen.

Local officials put damage in Ouachita county alone at \$81 million. Mr. Treen has said the damage total may top \$200 million.

In addition to damaged homes, several hundred thousand acres of farm and timberland are under water.

Iraqi navy destroys 2 Iranian naval targets

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its navy units had Tuesday destroyed two "naval targets" detected at Khor Mousa, at the northern tip of the Gulf.

An Iraqi high command military communiqué said several naval targets were detected this afternoon and were attacked by Iraqi navy units.

Two targets were destroyed and all Iraqi units involved in the attack returned to base safely, it added.

Arafat arrives in Aden

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Aden Monday night for talks with South Yemen President Ali Nasser Muhammad, the official Saudi Press Agency said Tuesday.

Mr. Arafat had earlier visited North Yemen. Earlier in an interview with the Algerian New Agency, Arafat said that the Jordanian-Palestinian talks which began last autumn dealt primarily with the method of establishing confederal relations between Jordan and Palestine.

Mr. Arafat added that the second topic which was discussed during the talks dealt with the political action which should be taken in light of the Fes summit conference resolutions.

The PLO leader called on the Lebanese leaders to be cautious vis-a-vis the negotiations with Israel. He said the Israelis do not want real peace or withdraw their forces from Lebanon but seek to settle in large parts of Lebanese territories.

Kaddoumi holds talks with Turkish leaders

ANKARA (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has assured Turkey, which supports the PLO's fight for an independent Palestinian state, that it will not act against Turkey's interests. Turkish officials said Tuesday.

The officials, who declined to be identified, told reporters the assurance was given by PLO foreign relations chief Farouk Kaddoumi, who is currently in Ankara for talks with Turkish leaders.

Mr. Kaddoumi met Prime Minister Bulend Ulusu Tuesday morning after talks Monday with Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen, who invited the PLO leader to visit Turkey.

Turkey gives full diplomatic support to the PLO and some non-combat support but officials say it will not supply arms or comply with the PLO's call for it to sever its low-level diplomatic ties with Israel.

Mr. Kaddoumi will fly to Istanbul Wednesday before leaving Turkey at the end of the week officials said.

Iraqi navy destroys 2 Iranian naval targets

Iraqi war planes raided Iran's positions Tuesday in Misan sector, scoring "effective hits" before returning to base safely, it said.

During the past 24 hours of fighting in the Gulf war, Iraq troops killed five Iranian soldiers, and wounded several others, the communiqué said.

Iranian artillery shelled the southern Iraqi city of Basrah at the border town of Mandali, causing some damage, it added.

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It was Mr. Schmidt who, in 1979, signed a NATO agreement committing West Germany to accept deployment of new U.S. medium-range missiles later this year, if the Soviets refused to dismantle similar weapons systems. But in the last few weeks, Mr.

Vogel has continuously stressed that the current Geneva negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union must succeed to make such deployment unnecessary.

According to the political magazine Der Spiegel, a private study commissioned by the centre-right government coalition of Chancellor Helmut Kohl shows that over half the country basically agrees with Mr. Vogel.

The study, said Der Spiegel shows that 55 per cent of the people questioned doubted whether the United States and the Soviet Union were negotiating seriously. And 61 per cent thought any decision on new U.S. missiles should be postponed, even if the Geneva talks did not succeed by autumn this year.

Mr. Kohl, on the other hand,

has firmly endorsed Mr. Schmidt's commitment and government leaders have accused Mr. Vogel of abandoning his predecessor's policies.

The SPD insists that its official position is that the stationing of new U.S. missiles is not out of the question.

But Mr. Vogel has been saying that only total intransigence on the Soviet side should provoke such a move. He has criticised the government for what he says is its policy of automatic acceptance of new U.S. rockets if the Geneva talks fail.

Juergen Moelleman, minister of state in the foreign office, this week accused Mr. Vogel of falling under the influence of the anti-nuclear "Greens" party.

The "Greens" stand a chance of getting into parliament for the first

time in the March election and, if the SPD can gain ground on the favoured Christian Democratic (CDU) Christian Social (CSU) alliance during the next two months, could hold the balance of power in a new government.

Mr. Moelleman challenged Mr. Vogel to clarify his position on the missiles question before he goes to Washington for a three-day visit including talks with President Reagan on Friday.

SPD sources said Mr. Vogel will argue that his party's basic stance on the medium-range missiles has not changed.

But he will emphasise that the 1979 NATO decision stated that Washington and Moscow must negotiate seriously and in good faith to try to avoid a further escalation of nuclear missiles.

Mr. Vogel's stance could be

aided by the growing belief in the West—and in particular the optimism expressed by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher—that there is now a real chance of agreement in Geneva this year.

Although the offer by new Soviet leader Yuri Andropov to reduce Soviet medium-range missiles to the number of similar weapons deployed by Britain and France has been widely rejected by the West, Mr. Genscher has said this could indicate a genuine shift in the Soviet negotiating position.

Mr. Vogel is due to have talks with Mr. Andropov during his visit to Moscow from Jan. 10-12. His trip also comes before Soviet Foreign Minister Andre Gromyko visits Bonn on Jan. 16-17 for talks with Chancellor Kohl and Mr. Genscher.

HOME NEWS

Hassan stresses need to develop Islamic thought and education

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday stressed the need to pay attention to and develop Islamic thought and education since "it is the proper framework for the progress of the nation and is capable of helping to overcome the nation's difficulties and forming a new generation of youth genuinely affiliated to Arabism and Islam."

Prince Hassan, who was addressing the board of directors of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bayt Foundation) which he visited Tuesday, added that such a new generation will be capable of

"shouldering the responsibilities of building a better future for the nation."

The foundation board discussed a draft programme to develop Islamic education, which will be implemented in cooperation with

the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) and the Arab Education Office for Gulf Arab countries.

The directors also discussed a proposed project to be undertaken by the foundation, outlining the treatment of non-Muslims by the Islamic faith.

Prince Hassan participated in scientific discussions of the topics raised and made a number of remarks about them. The Crown Prince Hassan was also briefed on the activities of the academy and its various projects.

The meeting was attended by the academy president, Nasuriddin Al Assad and members of the academy's board.



Dr. Shawkat Al Sati

Royal physician passes away

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Court announced Tuesday the death of Dr. Shawkat Al Sati, the physician of the royal household.

A Royal Court statement said that Dr. Sati passed away Tuesday evening "after a long and eventful life which he dedicated to serving his country, the King and the royal household."

Dr. Sati will be buried after noon prayers Wednesday at the Royal Cemetery.

5-member journalists committee formed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Information Minister Adnan Adu Odeh Tuesday formed a committee, to replace the Journalists Council, as stipulated in the new Journalists Association law.

The five-member committee, whose powers as president as well as the now-dissolved council are retroactive Jan. 1, 1983, is chaired by Press and Publications Department Director Ahmad Al Utom and comprises Mahmoud Al Kayed, the editor-in-chief of Al Ra'i newspaper, Ibrahim Sakhi, the editor-in-chief of Sawt Al Sha'b, Arafat Hijazi, the deputy director general of Al Dastour and Rakan Al Majali, the chief editor of the now-extinct Al Akbar.

All the four members have served as president of the Journalists Association.

The committee, after its seven-month mandate, will invite members of the association to elect a president and a council, and is also charged with implementing the provisions of the new law which defines the basic criteria for membership in the association.

Mr. Abu Odeh said the committee would complete its tasks within the nine-month period and asserted the new law would be applied "accurately and scrupulously."

Agriculture Ministry proposes special university courses

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Marwan Doudin sent Tuesday a memo to the University of Jordan President expressing the ministry's desire to convene training courses for those working in agricultural services projects in cooperation with the university's school of agriculture. The memo suggests that trainees be registered as students to acquire credit hours which they can use in case they want to continue higher studies.

The memo also asks the university that experts of agricultural project and holders of higher degrees in cooperation with professors from the agriculture school supervise the training of students.

Meeting studies way to counter UNRWA decision to cut aid

AMMAN (Petra) — The 30th session of the conference of supervisors of Palestinian refugee affairs in host Arab countries opened here Tuesday with the participation of delegations from Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Lebanon, Syria and the Arab League.

Occupied Territories Ministry Under-Secretary Shawkat Mahmoud, in his capacity as chairman of the Jordanian delegation, made a speech discussing the "dangers facing the Palestinian issue and the significance of convening this emergency session to discuss a unified plan to cope with the measures taken by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) to reduce its services, to Palestinian refugees as is evident from its latest decision to suspend food rations."

Mr. Mahmoud called for unified efforts to revoke the decision and to assert a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly requesting the UNRWA to continue distribution of food rations.

"This conference would enable us to get acquainted with measures applied against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories in terms of intensifying the Israeli settlement policy in the last three months and the declaration by the occupation authorities that they have plans to construct 35 new settlements capable of accommodating 100,000 new settlers in addition to 120,000

settlers in occupied Jerusalem," Mr. Mahmoud said.

He then suggested that the Chairman of the PLO delegation, Mohammad Nimeh Al Masri, assume the chairmanship of the conference and the suggestion was approved by the conference.

The conference approved a five-point agenda which deals with Palestinian issues. Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories, the UNRWA decision to suspend food aid to Palestinian refugees, United Nations General Assembly Resolutions on the Palestinian issue, educational conditions in UNRWA schools in the occupied territories, conditions of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, and travel and residence questions involving the Palestinians.

Addressing the seven-day conference, Mr. Masri pointed out the "significance of convening this session in Jordan under such difficult, delicate and serious circumstances for the Palestinian issue."

Arab League Assistant Secretary-General Mohammad Al Farra also in his speech stressed the importance of the topics to be discussed, particularly Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and the Israeli measures against the Arab residents of these territories. Dr. Farra thanked Jordan for the facilities it has rendered for convening the conference.

The conference will resume its sessions Wednesday.

Cairo requests CAEU for technical information

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of the Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary-General Fakhri Kaddouri received Tuesday a letter from Egypt's prime minister's adviser, Abdul Salam Badawi, requesting that Egypt be supplied with studies, research papers and statistical bulletins on economic development prepared by the technical departments of the CAEU.

The letter is the first official request from Egypt to the CAEU to supply it with such studies and research papers since the transfer of the CAEU headquarters to Amman in the first half of 1979.

NRA to attend conference on Arab water resources

AMMAN (Petra) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) will participate in a special meeting on implementation of a project to develop Arab water resources which will be held in Damascus next Monday.

The aim of the project is to determine the available water resources in Arab countries and their distribution, quality and hydrological characteristics in order to provide the necessary scientific base for planning and implementing development plans in the Arab World.

NRA Water Studies Department Director Ahmad Al Khatib, who will represent the NRA at the meeting, said a study on water resources in Jordan will be submitted to the meeting.

Royal decree approves 4 amendments to ordinances

AMMAN (Petra) — A royal decree was issued Tuesday approving four new ordinances which will go into force retroactive Jan. 1, 1983. These ordinances are: A bye-law of the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA); an amendment to the ordinance of the public security officers housing fund; an amendment to the ordinance of the Education Ministry employees housing fund and an ordinance amending the Civil Service ordinance.

'Jordan--Land and Heritage' wins '82 Golden Eagle award

AMMAN (Petra) — A documentary film in Jordan entitled "Jordan the Land and Heritage" has been awarded the 1982 international Golden Eagle award for cinema.

The film highlights the dynamic growth of Jordan in the last 29 years since His Majesty King Hussein assumed power. The documentary was filmed at locations in Petra, Jerash, Wadi Rumm, Aqaba, Amman and other sites in the country.

The film also shows Jordan's classical example in mixing old traditions with modern technology to serve citizens on all levels. The film was produced in early 1981 and took the producer and 15 other professional experts four months to complete.

2 ministry officials to undergo administrative course in India

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two Jordanian officials, one from the Ministry of Health and the other from the Ministry of Education, are scheduled to attend a training course in development administration to be held in India Jan. 10 to March 19, 1983.

The two officials, Mr. Hassan Mousa Al Sadi, Health Ministry assistant director in Irbid and Mr. Mohammad Ahmad Atiyah Hussein from the Education Ministry are expected to leave for India next week to attend the training course.

The course, organised under an Indian sponsored international programme to offer specialised training in development administration, is within the framework of the Indian Technical Economic Cooperation Programme among Third World nations.

3 sentenced on drug charges

AMMAN (Petra) — The military governor approved Monday sentences passed by the military court sentencing Mohammad Turki Nasser Al Uraybi, a Saudi national, to 15 months of imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of JD 5,000 and Talal Al Husari, a Lebanese national, to 15 months of imprisonment and a fine of JD 5,000 after indictment on charges of dealing in narcotics. Mohammad Adib Mahmoud Qazzaz was sentenced to six months

NCC session on '83 budget focuses on national objectives

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Monday's session of the National Consultative Council (NCC), which approved the national budget for 1983, centred on Jordan's national and pan-Arab commitments as a front-line state with Israel and stressed the need to develop the country's national income to alleviate the country's dependence on external revenues.

During the eight-hour session, NCC members emphasised the need to give priority to strengthening the Armed Forces to ensure the security of the country in the light of the prevailing political situation in the Middle East.

Several of the 26 members who spoke on the subject requested an increase in the funds allocated for supporting the Armed Forces.

Endorsing the budget objective of increasing support for the steadfastness of the inhabitants of the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, NCC member Dr. Carlos Demes called for the formation of a planning council with the aim of deciding the priorities in respect to support to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

He also suggested that a study be made of possibilities of marketing West Bank products in Jordan and other Arab countries.

Fuel subsidies

Although NCC members expressed strong support for the objectives of the 1983 budget as laid down by the government, a considerable number of them, including the council's Financial

and Administrative Committee had reservations on the government's decision to raise the subsidies allocated for fuel support.

Views expressed on this issue ranged from describing the raise in fuel subsidies as "a damaging factor to the economy" and demanding a decrease and thereby reducing the budget deficit.

Some members disagreed, indicating that the reduction will lead to a raise in fuel prices which is not in favour of the consumer.

The council voted in favour for a recommendation to reduce the fuel subsidies and Prime Minister Mudar Badran explained that it would have been beyond the treasury's capacity to subsidise fuel with the suggested increase.

"We were hoping that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will reduce oil prices and to build a pipeline from Aqaba to the oil refinery in Zarqa, which would have enabled us to import crude oil based at less than \$34 a barrel," Mr. Badran said.

He explained that the National Planning Council is formulating a plan to build a pipeline from Zarqa to Aqaba and that it will be implemented in the near future.

As for the issue of oil exploration in Jordan, which was raised by many members, Mr. Badran said that three oil wells were dug and that the second one showed indications of oil reserves. These wells, however, are dug for exploratory purposes, he confirmed.

Arab aid

The issue of Arab aid to Jordan

was also raised by the members. The 1983 budget indicated that Arab aid to Jordan for this year is estimated to be JD 215 million.

A report submitted by the council's Financial and Administrative Committee pointed out that amounts of Arab aid should increase to be equal with the amounts decided upon by the Baghdad Arab summit in 1978.

While many members urged Arab countries to fulfill "their national obligation toward Jordan," some members pointed out the economic consequences entailed in Jordan's dependence on foreign aid and loans.

NCC members Lehb Shbeilat and Feisal Kan'an said that the new budget reflects an increase in Jordan's dependence on foreign sources of revenue.

They added that while foreign loans and aids totalled JD 40 million in 1971, they increased to JD 332 millions in 1983. Mr. Shbeilat emphasised that this increase "affects the independence of Jordan and its freedom of choice."

Local sources

Speakers supported the government's objective in increasing local sources of revenue, but some members pointed out that "the new budget law did not define these local sources of revenue" and whether these sources would mean increases in different taxes and fees or to increasing the revenues of projects and investments in which the government is involved.

A criticism was voiced by some members against the fact that cus-

tom duties on imported goods constitute 37 per cent of the total internal revenue. They warned that this heavy dependence on customs duty "constitutes a threat to the growing infant and national industries."

Industrial production

A recommendation by the council's Financial and Administrative Committee that the budget "should reflect in numbers the objective of development plans for the national economy by increasing industrial production at the expense of service economy in order to increase the revenues of the productive sector," was discussed by many members.

They stressed the significance of providing more protection and encouragement for national industries.

NCC members Amin Shukry called for banning or at least reducing the import of commodities which could be produced locally. Other members called for more support for agriculture and farmers. They proposed that "a production and marketing plan" be formulated.

The production plan includes technical supervision by agricultural engineers and experts to guide farmers on methods of utilising the land efficiently and to decide which crops to be planted in accordance with soil types and the needs of the market.

The marketing plan, which was viewed by members to be the most relevant question as far as agricultural products are concerned, implies the increase government

support for agricultural products.

Migration to cities

Members also called for narrowing the gap between the level of life in the cities and rural areas. They requested that electricity and other public services should be extended to rural areas and areas of bedouin tribes in the south.

"The extension of public services and the improvement of living standards in these areas will limit the rate of migration from the villages to the towns and cities," they said.

"Inequality"

NCC members also raised the question of "inequality" in the distribution of wealth among the people in Jordan. NCC member Jawdat Al Shoul, who emphasised the "dangerous consequences of social and economic inequality" said that "although we are aware of this problem we do not try to reach to its core. Instead we tend to make cosmetic improvements on the surface which will not lead to any change."

Mr. Shoul and Mr. Shukry pointed out that a recommendation adopted by the council's Financial and Administrative Committee to maintain the continuation of a free economy "should take into consideration the need of governmental intervention when the public interests are affected."

They indicated that a free economy should imply ensuring equal economic and social opportunities for the people.



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The scooter makes a comeback to Japanese streets

By Roy Garner

OKYO — Motor scooters have returned to Japanese streets as one of the big fashion successes of the 1980s.

The scooter appears to have broken through the "image barrier" of the motor-cycle more successfully than any of the other two-wheeled innovations of recent years, allowing access to a true mass market.

Even the manufacturers have been surprised by the success of the scooter, which was first produced in Japan just after the war, but enjoyed limited popularity.

But the very sales points being promoted by the makers and facilitating booming sales — simplicity of use, fashionableness and accessibility to both old and young, with or without experience — also appears to be contributing to an alarming increase in the number of deaths and injuries resulting from traffic accidents in the 50 cc scooter size range.

After an 11 year break in manufacture, the scooter production lines were restarted first by Honda

in 1980 with its "Tact" model. Honda was soon followed by Suzuki with its "Gemma 50" and Yamaha with its "Beluga" model.

Demand for scooters had been so great that Honda alone predicted sales in 1982 more than one million units, 43 per cent of its total motor-cycle sales.

By way of comparison, the combined production of all Japanese makers during the previous "scooter era" between 1946 and 1968 was a mere 1.14 million units, with a production peak of 125,000 units in 1959.

Suzuki started making scooters in March 1981 and in the January-September period of 1982 produced 174,453 units, 70 per cent being its "Gemma" model targeted at 30 year old males and the rest its "Love" model aimed at teens and twenties.

Yamaha has produced 75,000 units in 1982 and reports its prime target customers are high school children, followed by housewives and commuters. The company has even introduced an all-women production line at one

of its factories, to promote the idea of women and scooters getting on well together.

The recent success of scooters plainly owes a lot to the groundwork laid by previous forms of mini-bike.

Moritaka Higuchi, a Honda spokesman, says that in the company the "family bike" concept was first pursued with the introduction of its 50 cc "Road Pal" moped in 1975, and it was similar early lightweight models which he believes helped to cultivate an acceptance among a new range of adult users, especially housewives who preferred them to bicycles for shopping trips.

Other observers suggest that the instant success of Japanese scooters owed more to the prior creation of demand by Vespa. The Italian company had achieved annual sales of 10,000 units, in the years before Honda's entry, with scooters priced at a minimum of Y235,000 (\$944).

Japanese makers then entered the market with machines selling at less than half the Vespa price. The Italian company's sales in

1981 dropped sharply to about 6,000 units.

Experience with earlier "family bikes" gave the Japanese the technological lead required to mass produce super-lightweight, cheap and efficient scooters, as soon as a market opening arose.

Although total scooter sales in 1982 approached 1.5 million units, Higuchi says that this is still only a fraction of the potential market size. He suggests that the scooter is now being marketed as a product which every family should own, in much the same way as at present almost every household contains at least one bicycle, for use by different family members.

Since Japan has approximately 34 million households, this would indicate a huge growth potential, and a typical price of between Y100,000 to Y200,000 is within most people's reach these days. The "bike-substitute" philosophy is a key to understanding the scooter's success.

Cyclists are still accorded a status superior to pedestrians on Japanese pavements, and local community commerce has cus-

tomarily been conducted on two wheels.

The freedom of action the Japanese feel entitled to when bicycle-riding has clearly been stretched to embrace mini-bikes and scooters too. Few scooter drivers wear crash helmets, which are not compulsory for riders of 50 cc machines, and only a written test of the highway code is required to obtain the 50 cc driving licence. Current car licence holders need take no test at all.

The National Police Agency (NPA) has just introduced a one-hour practical experience session for licence applicants, but riding performance will not affect the applicant's right to receive a licence if he is successful in the written test.

The casual approach favoured by mini-bike riders is reflected in accident statistics. Of the 7,441 persons killed on the roads in the January-October period in 1982, 1,740 were involved in accidents related to two-wheeled vehicles, 16.9 per cent up on 1981 according to NPA figures.

Financial Times news feature

An unexpected boost to punsters

By Michael Connor

Reuter

NEW YORK — The International Save the Pun Foundation, a tongue-in-cheek group run by punster John Crosbie, received an unexpected boost last month when President Reagan defended his paring of social services.

The president told bankers in New Orleans his administration was not suffering from "cirrhosis of the liver."

The bankers laughed at the presidential pun, but many people winced at the word plays so dear to Mr. Crosbie.

"I become very annoyed when people refer to puns as the lowest form of humour," said Mr. Crosbie, a professional punster who has written the popular Crosbie's Dictionary of Puns and is editor of a pun newsletter with an international readership.

"All sorts of people make puns," he said. "All it takes is maturity and an affinity for language."

Mr. Crosbie, the 62-year-old head of a Canadian publishers' group who also bills himself "chairman of the bored" of the International Save the Pun Foundation, says he maintains a punishing pace as a pun promoter.

"I work more hours at puns than I want my family or my employers to know," he said.

One-man organisation

Besides writing his pun books, including one of Punned Haikus, Mr. Crosbie handles the affairs of his pun foundation, a one-worker, non-profit organisation that operates from his home and has thousands of dues-paying members.

"My foundation is based in that box," he said in a recent interview here, pointing to Toronto Postal number 5040 on his business card. A prime source for his puns is correspondence from foundation members.

"I've seen the vast majority of puns. And sometimes I have to issue a plea for people to stop sending me certain ones."

He recently told his pun-pals that he had read enough variations on the complex pun about the puritanical zookeeper arrested for breaking laws with "immoral porpoises" in mind.

He is also tired of the pun about a man named Fawcett who refuses to pay the college tuition for his daughters, interested in Egyptian studies, because they want to be "Pharaoh Fawcett majors."

Most puns are topical, Mr. Crosbie said. But the best puns — such as the hundreds in William Shakespeare's plays or Thomas Hood's. "They went and told the Sexton and the Sexton tolled the bell" — are timeless.

Puns and children

"I started punning because I had a bad stutter as a child," said Mr. Crosbie, who is compiling a book of puns for youngsters. Puns can stimulate children into experimenting with language, he said.

"Puns and being a radio broadcaster (during the 1930s in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia) helped me a great deal."

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Rational assistance

By Ibrahim Abu Nab
Al Ra'i

IMAGINE a family of 10 people of whom two lead a luxurious and very comfortable life, having more than enough to eat and unable to decide what to do with the leftovers. In contrast, the other eight suffer from abject poverty, unable to find means of feeding themselves and consequently suffer from malnutrition.

If you multiply those 10 by the number 400 million you will have a picture of the whole international family today. The two members with abundant food supplies are those of Europe and the USA which normally have surplus food supplies, more than their peoples can consume, whereas the rest of the world suffers from a chronic problem of the lack of food and all that goes with it.

In the U.S., surplus food supplies amount to 150 million tonnes because American farmers get good prices for their produce and are backed by their government's financial support and subsidies. The American government also supports farmers politically by refraining from selling surplus foodstuffs for cheaper prices on world markets for the sake of preserving the level of food prices and safeguarding national interests. Agriculture, as is known, is the wealth of nations, and it is agriculture that ensures

food security which is an integral part of national security.

For its part, Europe has been granting its farmers greater subsidies and is now competing with the U.S. in this field. Europe and the U.S., however, sometimes offer part of their agricultural products as gifts to developing nations, but these gifts have regrettably been destroying agricultural production in these developing nations because they stand to compete with local farmers' production.

The developing nations have realised, unfortunately too late, the importance of ensuring food security and preserving natural and manpower resources, and have found themselves exposed to food, economic and cultural imperialism.

In Jordan wheat production which used to be 250,000 tonnes a year now stands at about 15,000 tonnes. It is hoped that Europe and the U.S. will in 1983 reduce their subsidies to their farmers a little and offer a little more assistance to farmers of the developing nations, including Jordan. This will partly compensate for the past destruction of developing nations' economies and will no doubt help developed countries solve some of their problems.

The whole world will undoubtedly benefit from more rational policies which are designed to help others as well as the helpers.

SCIENCE & INDUSTRY

Wasting time counting time?

By Dr. Awn Rifai

A few days ago the world welcomed the year 1983 with reactions ranging from total indifference to religious or hilarious festivities. As most countries go by the Gregorian Christian calendar, this calendar has been established as the one most commonly used in official and non-official dealings even in countries that have other systems of dating, such as the Japanese Empire calendar or the Islamic Hijra calendar.

The first modern calendar was put to use by Julius Caesar in 45 B.C. He decreed that there should be three years of 365 days each, and then one year of 366 days, in perpetual cycle. This became known as the Julian calendar, and began the custom we still observe today of adding one day to the month of February every fourth year, or "leap year" as it is called nowadays.

Even though the Julian calendar was an enormous improvement over all previous systems, it still lacked precision. This inaccuracy emanated from the fact that there are approximately, but not exactly, 365 1/4 days in a solar year, which made the Julian calendar satisfactory only for many years. The exact solar year consists of 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, 47.8 seconds. The difference of approximately 11 minutes becomes appreciable in the course of several centuries.

The final calendar correction was made in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII, and the corrected calendar that we use today is accordingly called the Gregorian calendar.

In order to make up for all the days which had accumulated since the beginning of the Julian calendar, Pope

Gregory XIII decreed the elimination of 10 days from the year 1582. His decree was put into effect and in many countries the day after October 4, 1582 became October 15, 1582.

Pope Gregory XIII also installed the so-called leap year rule which is now in effect, and which will serve us for more than a thousand years hence. The Gregorian leap year rule provides for dropping a day from every centesimal year (ending in 00) whose number cannot be divided by 400. Thus a day was dropped in the years 1700, 1800 and 1900. This meant that the year 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not leap years, i.e. had 28 days in February. The day will not be dropped in the year 2000, so the month of February, 2000 will have 29 days. The error in our present calendar is less than one day

every 3000 years, so, although the Gregorian calendar is a great improvement over the Julian calendar, it still is not 100 per cent accurate.

Although the initial adoption of the Gregorian calendar was in 1582, its use was by no means universal. As might be expected, the first countries to adopt the new calendar were primarily Roman Catholic. Most Protestant countries did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until later.

The American colonies made the switch in 1752, when the whole British empire changed. September 2, 1752 was followed by September 14, 1752; an eleven day adjustment was now needed, the Julian calendar having added another day between 1582 and 1752. Dates preceding the change are sometimes designated O.S. for Old Style.

Thus, George Washington's birthday is really February 11, 1732 (O.S.), and only after the change in the Gregorian calendar was his birthday established as February 22, 1732.

Most dates in American history have been converted to New Style, or Gregorian dates. Other countries have been even slower in adopting the new calendar: Japan, 1873; China, 1912; Greece, 1924; Turkey, 1927.

Although modern science has made available the means for repetitively counting time, with utmost precision, the counting based on solar years is not expected to change should we start thinking of introducing a "scientific calendar", provided, of course, we do not waste too much time counting time?



British Community membership questioned

By Barry May
Reuter

LONDON — Doubts and hesitations about Britain's role in Europe, a dominant feature of relations with the European Community, will be a prominent political issue again in 1983.

For the second time in eight years, Britain's 40 million voters will be asked to choose between continued membership and withdrawal. The choice will come in the general election that most British politicians think is certain to be called this year.

The Opposition Labour Party has already decided to contest the election pledged to pull Britain out of the community. Recent British setbacks in relations with the Community, coinciding with the run-up to the election, have prompted speculation that the status of Britain's membership could somehow be altered.

The speculation was fuelled by President Francois Mitterrand of France, who last year said that Britain would have to decide on the nature of its future in the Common Market. Britain's Common Market partners had been pushed to the brink by the Conservative

government's insistence on linking agreement to increased farm prices with demands for a long-term settlement of London's budget contributions. In the event, the British were overruled.

British acceptance of close links with its major West European trading partners has never been unanimous and often seemed only half-hearted. Public opinion polls have shown an average of three out of five people in Britain favour withdrawal. The Labour Party's declared intent is to withdraw from the Community within a year of a Labour government being elected.

The issue will be presented to voters as a straight choice between a vote for Labour to take Britain out of the Community, or a vote for the other parties to stay in. At the next general election, the British people will be faced with a clear and fundamental choice about the type of society they want to see in the years ahead, the party states.

Withdrawal steps

A Labour government would immediately stop payments to the Community's budget as the first

step to complete withdrawal. The British Parliament's full legislative powers would be restored by the repeal of laws that originated in the Community. And where necessary, Britain's international treaty obligations would be renegotiated.

Labour argues that Community membership is incompatible with the complete implementation of the party's alternative economic strategy for reviving British industry. Through import controls, exchange controls, and massive state aid to industry, this aims to reduce Britain's record unemployment figure of 3.1 million (12.5 per cent of the workforce after seasonal adjustment) to under one million within five years.

Gaston Thorn, president of the Community's executive commission, says British withdrawal would amount to economic suicide. We would be deeply sorry because it is a great mistake," he said on a recent visit to London. "It would make, economically speaking, an act of certain suicide."

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the largest employers' organisation, esti-

mates that 2.5 million jobs depend on the European market and two million of them would be lost if Britain withdrew. Pro-European point out that trade with Common Market countries has risen to 43 per cent of British exports, worth \$32 billion a year, compared with 29 per cent in 1973. British membership has also helped to attract investment by foreign companies wanting to base inside the Community.

In 1973, Britain took nearly 30 per cent of all U.S. investment, excluding oil, in the Community. At the latest count, in 1980, the proportion was nearly 59 per cent. At the same time, West Germany has superseded the United States as Britain's largest export market. The last time British electors were asked to decide whether to quit the community or remain the result was to two-to-one vote to stay in. That was in Britain's only national referendum in 1975, when the then Labour government recommended continued membership in face of opposition by the party as a whole.

Tide has turned

Since then, the tide of public opinion seems to have turned.

with the polls now showing that three out of five Britons favour withdrawal. Conservative anti-marketisers, represented in Parliament by a hard core of right-wingers, clearly figure in the calculations. The most prominent is Enoch Powell, now outside the Conservative Party, who goes so far as to recommend elections to vote Labour in order to get Britain out of the Common Market.

"It is not my party, but that does not blind me to the unique service that the Labour Party alone has in its power to perform for this country," he says. One poll earlier this year found seven per cent of Conservative voters and 25 per cent of the new Social Democratic Party's supporters would vote Labour if it was the only party committed to withdrawal.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, despite a broad streak of nationalist sentiment that identifies her with staunch national resolve rather than multi-national consensus, remains committed to the community: "We are full members of the EEC and we intend to remain full members of the EEC," she declared after this year's budget and farm price reverses.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Nothing can stop Jordanian-Palestinian joint march

In the anniversary of its birth, the Palestinian revolution asserted that the Jordanian-Palestinian march is an expression of the will of the Jordanian and Palestinian people and that the dialogue between them is not directed against anyone but is a logical outcome of the close relationship linking them.

This assertion is of extreme significance because Jordanian-Palestinian relations is the natural and asic support for the Palestinian revolution and the basis for formulating the picture of the future relationship between the two peoples.

This is an invitation to all Arabs to be the power supporting this Jordanian-Palestinian march if they are to perform their pan-Arab responsibility. These relations are also the firm reply to those who opposed the march by slandering the Palestinian

leadership and trying to drive a wedge in Palestinian ranks. These people should remember that relations between the Jordanians and Palestinians are stronger than their attempts to undermine them, and will remain the basis of unified pan-Arab action.

The relations between the two peoples were based on free choice and will continue to move ahead. The fruits of the responsible dialogue between His Majesty King Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is an example of national action which will fulfill the aspirations of the two peoples towards a better future.

Furthermore, the efforts King Hussein is making in defence of the Palestinian rights and identity have left their strongest impact vis-a-vis the Jordanian-Palestinian interaction.

Al Dustour: What happened to U.S.-promises to Lebanon?

The session of the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations held in Khaldé Monday led to no results. Six hours after the negotiations, a joint statement said that efforts should continue to reach agreement on any agenda.

Evidently the lack of a clear American position vis-a-vis the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon is giving Israel the opportunity to obstruct the negotiations and consequently obstruct the withdrawal.

Israel continues to insist that the American delegation is a mere observer or witness and is seeking

a Lebanese capitulation through a peace treaty and normalisation of relations at the expense of Lebanon's sovereignty and Lebanon's pan-Arab affiliation.

The whole world knows that the United States gave guarantees to Lebanon that it will exercise all forms of pressure leading to Israel's withdrawal and Lebanon's liberation from the grip of Israeli occupation. Any going back on this American position cannot be justified by claiming that pressuring Israel would enhance its extremism.

Catholics debate nuclear weapons

How America's bishops learnt to loathe the bombs

by W.J. Weatherby

From now until May, the Catholic Church in the United States faces one of the greatest conflicts in its history. The bitter abortion debate has been pushed into the background by the growing controversy over the morality of nuclear war.

So concerned is the Reagan administration that it has backed a veritable array of critics from Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger to nuclear strategist Henry Kissinger in an attempt to persuade the bishops to revise their positions before their proposed pastoral letter to 51 million American Catholics is formally issued in May.

Nothing reflects more clearly the vast changes in the Catholic Church in the U.S. over the past years. As immigrants who lived in a faith whose head was Europe, American Catholics they had to prove themselves as super patriots. For many years the American hierarchy was ecologically conservative and shy critical of government policies. The late Cardinal Spellman of New York was typical in his sermons against nuclear war and his blessing of bombs in the Korean war. But the

civil rights movement, the Vietnam war, the influence of Latin American priests, but especially Pope John XXIII at the Second Vatican Council calling on Catholics to play a more active part in promoting social justice changed the thinking of many in the new generation of priests and bishops.

The extremes are represented now by Cardinal Terence Cooke, who is Cardinal Spellman's successor in New York, and the Archbishop of Chicago, the Most Rev. Joseph Louis Bernardin.

Cardinal Cooke, military vicar to Catholics in the armed forces, warned his fellow church leaders that the nuclear issue had great potential "for seriously dividing our church and nation."

The proposed 110-page letter condemned any first use of nuclear weapons, including the U.S. willingness to use nuclear arms against a Soviet invasion of Western Europe. It also condemned any use of nuclear weapons against military targets located

near civilian populations and said of the U.S. policy of retaliation if U.S. cities are attacked, it would "serve no rational or moral purpose." Conceding the usefulness of nuclear weapons as a deterrent, the bishops insisted this nuclear balance must be used as a step towards "progressive disarmament." They also declared "we cannot approve of every weapons system, strategic doctrine or policy initiative advanced in the name of strengthening deterrence."

Exert pressure

During the past two years while the bishops were drawing up their letter, the Reagan administration, worried that it would help the peace movement and supporters of unilateral disarmament, tried to influence the bishop through such administration Catholics as National Security adviser William Clark, who argued that the bishops should take into account the U.S.'s efforts at disarmament and the Soviet Union's threatening arms build-up. The bishops themselves were divided over several important matters, notably whether a deterrent had any value if there was a commitment not to use it, and they will eventually reach a final compromise at a special

conference in Chicago on May 2 and 3.

To exert as much pressure as possible until then, the Reagan administration has supported the formation of an American Catholic Committee by a group of influential Catholic laymen already opposed to the hierarchy's support of "left-wing causes" in Latin America. As usual in the American political arena, "left-wing", "liberal", and "conservative" are used like weapons rather than definitions.

Archbishop Bernardin, a close colleague of the present Pope and famous for working out compromises on controversial issues, states firmly, "We don't expect everyone to accept our conclusions, but we believe we must think this thing through to the end." He has already had to balance the views of New Orleans Archbishop Philip Hannan who is against the letter because it ignores the evils of Soviet Communism and Seattle Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen who is in favour of unilateral U.S. disarmament.

While the National Conference of Catholic Bishops debated the pastoral letter in Washington D.C. recently, some priests, nuns and lay Catholics demonstrated against nuclear weapons with the feeling that their cause has much

more backing from the hierarchy. Father Daniel Berrigan, the famous Jesuit activist of the Sixties, said that whereas in the Sixties activists like him went to jail alone, "now there are bishops at our side and Jesuits putting up bail."

Regain popularity

Some critics of the hierarchy suggest the bishops' stand is an attempt to regain the popularity lost by the ban on birth control reaffirmed by the Vatican and ignored by many American Catholics.

Yet in a sense the letter is merely the latest, most controversial aspect of a general trend for the hierarchy to become much more involved in American life and the day-to-day concerns of their parishioners. The older generation of bishops were more autocratic and often seemed to separate theology and politics too rigidly and to be more interested in real estate than in social concerns.

The younger generation sometimes reflects a guilt complex that the Church was late in turning away from a hawkish Spellman line on Vietnam. It has been accused by many American Catholics and also some European Catholic leaders of leaning too

"leftwards," especially in Latin America -- and now over nuclear policy, their pastoral letter condemned as "soft on communism."

But compared with the days

when Catholic pronouncements were entirely predictable and there was a vast underbelly of alienation, the present state of controversy, conflict and division

seems healthy. No administration will be able any longer to take the Catholic hierarchy for granted.

-- The Guardian



كندا في العالم

Counterfeit medicines: Lebanon's other killers

By Robert Cockburn

BEIRUT — Dangerous vaccines, anti-biotics, tranquilisers, and even a medical shampoo made from petrol and water have inflicted suffering and it is believed death to unsuspecting patients in Lebanon.

Now the country's new Health Minister, Dr. Adnan Mroueh, has said international pharmaceutical manufacturers, whose names are pirated to sell the inferior drugs, could do more to stop the racket by checking their products. Beirut pharmacists admit massive profit has been made since 1979 by selling low grade substitutes in packages expertly counterfeited to look like reputable Western products.

British companies whose products appear on a list of 57 drugs the ministry says are forged, including Boots, ICI, and Burroughs Wellcome, remain cautious and deny being victims of the racket. But Beecham Laboratories, which is also listed, as now admitted that two products used for extremely sick patients have been analysed as useless fakes. No public announcement was made after Beecham's quality assurance laboratory in Worthing made the tests on forged Amoxil and Amoxil on October 20. According to Beecham's agent in East Beirut the company first knew it was a victim of the racket as long ago as November, 1981.

The Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry has requested from its 151 members

fresh evidence of counterfeiting following a warning it issued last March, about Lebanon. The association had been told that the factory producing the fakes close to Beirut airport was destroyed by bombing during Israel's invasion last summer. But Beecham said the fakes it found came from

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North Lebanon and checks would continue to be made.

"I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say that lives are at risk in Lebanon," Beecham's Monty Meth said. "The two products which purported to be manufactured by Beecham Pharmaceutical are intended for treatment of severe infections. The counterfeits are totally ineffective. We would be irresponsible if we had not taken these samples. The Lebanese problem places an extra responsibility on companies to back the Minister of Health to stamp out counterfeiting."

Behind the racket are militia groups, a corrupt network of government officials, who are at least in part aided by the legitimate manufacturers' fear to speak out. The trade reached a peak in the summer of this year when Israel invaded Lebanon. Some measure

of control has been achieved in West Beirut, but other areas are still exposed to the danger.

The marketing representative of a European manufacturer said no action had been taken by his company for fear of reprisals from a left-wing militia. Only one West German company publicly took

step to warn their customers earlier this year that their product had been falsified, risking not just possible reprisals but also their place in a fiercely competitive market.

Dr. Mroueh commissioned a special task force in November to investigate the racket and other abuses. Its findings will be reported in January. In an interview Dr. Mroueh said that the trade could carry on beyond the capital where the government has no power in areas occupied by Israeli, Syrian, and Palestinian forces. But the battle is also within his own ministry where Dr. Mroueh said the bulk of his budget was being corruptly milked by the private sector hospitals.

"There are many factories operating in areas where we have no control and government authority does not prevail," he

said. "These areas will come under our control as sovereignty comes to all parts of Lebanon and our inspectors can make visits again. There are 19 pharmaceutical houses in Lebanon and the state has no quality control over their products."

"The task force is looking for a remedy to this problem but whether we can implement the remedy is a different matter. I think the ethical companies can do something to help by taking samples here. Ministry of Health inspectors are not influential."

The "repacking" industry predates the civil war of 1975. Corruption in the Ministry of Health is institutionalised, allowing the importation of inferior drugs which do not meet necessary standards. These products from uncontrolled Asian and European laboratories are believed to be used inside the fakes because they are cheap and easy to import.

There are now more than 15,000 different drug types coming into Lebanon. One source claimed that the post of pharmaceutical Customs officer had been deliberately kept vacant at Beirut International Airport since independence in 1943. But there is a real fear among officials and pharmacists on the street, to discuss a multi-million dollar trade which operates with Mafia-like ruthlessness.

Lawlessness has meant international companies have been powerless to take legal action to prevent their trade marks being stolen. But Hoechst of West Germany has issued a warning pam-



The medicine on the left—supposedly a treatment for serious infection—is totally ineffective, according to Beecham. The genuine article is on the right.

phlet to Lebanese doctors and pharmacists over the falsification of its product Daonil, with an emergency advertisement placed in the Beirut. This warned: "The possibility cannot be ruled out that, if falsification is used, some patients may experience marked blood sugar level fluctuations due to varying bioavailability."

That, said one Beirut doctor, could have proved fatal for a diabetic patient. The pamphlet pointed out that the fake bore neither the Hoechst logo nor the product number on both sides of the tablet, and that there were dif-

ferences in colour and size of packaging.

But the Beecham fakes were so accurate, including proper batch numbers and dates of manufacture and expiry, that Mr. Meth said it was almost impossible to tell them apart. Beecham is now considering using a special light-sensitive canon to identify the real product.

Inferior drugs are now being held responsible by doctors where treatment had no effect. During the 1979 polio epidemic a paediatrician in the southern port of Sidon treated 201 victims some

time after they had been vaccinated with supplies from the Ministry of Health. One girl is paralysed from the neck down, although complaints to the ministry were never followed up.

Proving a direct relationship between poor drugs and sickness or death is difficult in a country where no post-mortems are carried out. A surgeon recently believed he saved a patient with brain edema when he noticed the phial of Kenacort steroid, made by the Squibb company of America, was wrapped in the instruction sheet of a cheap Italian substitute. The box was a fake.

An American resident trying to clean her daughter's head of lice said repeated treatment by a powerful U.S.-made shampoo called Kwell had no effect. For 18 Lebanese pounds she thought she was buying Reed and Carnrich's product containing gamma benzene which the label said: "...is a powerful inducer of microsomal enzymes."

That, said a Beirut pharmacist prepared to talk about the racket, was really made up of petrol and water. He sold me a suspect bottle of Beecham's Penbritin, which he said did not dissolve properly and was in a poorly printed box, for the retail price of £Leb15.50. The real product costs him £Leb13 from the legitimate agent, while the fake, which he said he was forced to buy, cost him just £Leb5.

"If the pharmacist only sold the real products he would go out of business anyway," he argued. He claimed to have seen forged boxes

of ICI's Inderal for heart pain and of the West German pro-Bocbringer's Persantin. V. by Roche, is also listed, and widely by residents who live in extreme pressures in Lebanon.

ICI spokesman, Geoff Hogg, said he had never heard of a problem before in Lebanon, more dangerous if life-saving drugs are being used. To placebo for angina is unspeakable. Burroughs Wellcome say they have no evidence that their nasal decongestant Acifed has ever faked. "Even if it is true that we were being pirated there is no way we could do it the moment we would have to let the dust before we did anything."

Boots said its legitimate sales had dropped 50 per cent in Lebanon, but denied its agent had found any fakes in company range. "It is very serious and very worrying," B spokesman, Terry Steel, said the aftermath of a war such as Lebanon plagiarised drugs into the market. We will not let it unless it affects our trade.

"It is an area of concern to our companies which appear to have problems counterfeiting products," said Lunney of the Association. "It is up to the company to resist. There is a great deal of cost but it is difficult to declare a lemon without damaging legitimate business."

— Guardian

Recession creates homelessness on scale unknown since depression

Homeless Americans in "a hell of a mess"

The following is the first of two articles on the growing number of homeless Americans, an increasing feature of the recession. The first report examines the problem on a national scale and the second will show how it is being tackled in a major metropolitan area, New York.

By Michael Connor

Reuter

NEW YORK — Growing numbers of homeless Americans are creating social problems for local governments across the U.S. on a scale not seen since the great depression.

The costly problems of housing and feeding large numbers of homeless estimated to number up to two million, were first faced by officials in New York and other big cities.

But now, as local government revenues are diminished by federal cuts and the recession, suburban areas must deal with impoverished citizens who need the basics for survival.

"I think we're dealing with nothing less than a national tragedy and a national disgrace," Salt Lake City mayor Ted Wilson told the first congressional committee on homelessness.

"We have a hell of a mess on our hands," he said.

Mitch Snyder, head of a group organising help for the homeless, said the phenomenon extends all over the country.

"I've been in public service since 1951 and this is the first time

we've had a soup kitchen," Arthur Holland, mayor of Trenton, New Jersey, told an emergency meeting in Washington of the U.S. con-

"We're dealing with nothing less than a national tragedy and a national disgrace," Salt Lake City mayor Ted Wilson told the first congressional committee on homelessness.

ference of mayors on homelessness last month.

Social service studies, volunteers and officials report that the new homeless are different from the generations of unhoused Americans who first congregated in skid rows after the civil war of the early 1800s.

Many are former mental patients, released from institutions because of advances in drug therapy and shifting treatment philosophies. The population of U.S. mental hospitals dropped by half a million to 150,000 between the mid-1950s and 1978.

A great many others are marginally employable people aged under 40 pushed out of the job market by the recession. Some are skilled or educated workers with too little seniority to retain their jobs.

Local officials report destitute, young families living in cars and vans for weeks while parked in municipal campgrounds.

Scholars say many poor Americans are forced onto the nation's streets and highways because the amount of low-cost housing in the United States is shrinking dra-

stically.

Social service workers said few homeless fit the stereotype of a lifetime alcoholic or drug addict too unstable to remain for long at one address.

The phenomenon of the homeless is new to America's "sunbelt," the southwest portion of the nation that prospered well into the recession. Thousands now without housing first left home in search of work in the sunbelt.

"Austin (Texas) officials cope daily with transients living in cars, looking through garbage cans," said a report issued by the U.S. conference of mayors. Tulsa, Oklahoma, officials said that as many as 200 to 300 people live under city bridges.

State officials in Texas, long a lure for job seekers because of a then-thriving oil business, began

mailing a booklet to out-of-state welfare agencies warning of the rising Texas unemployment and insufficient government aid.

Sunbelt mayors and other officials, feeling the effects of Reagan administration cutbacks in social spending, have joined their counterparts in other areas in supporting a \$10 million dollar emergency shelter and food programme being considered by Congress.

While lobbying the federal government, some officials are urging restrictions on evictions as a means of stemming the increase of homelessness. Others are experimenting and turning to private groups.

San Francisco mayor Dianne Feinstein ordered two buses parked in a neighbourhood known for street sleepers, but she withdrew them after receiving reports that some of the dozens using the buses had robbed the others.

New York officials, prodded into action by a lawyer suing on behalf of six homeless men, expect to spend \$38 million this year on sheltering the city's 36,000 homeless adults.

But city officials admit they cannot cope.

"We can't solve this problem alone," Jack Proskopf of the city's human resources administration told a recent meeting of 500 clerics and neighbourhood leaders aiming to establish small vol-

unteer shelters.

"There's an economy producing more homeless, there's a shortage of low-cost housing in this city. We need the help of churches and synagogues," he said.

New York officials supply bedding, linen and other materials to scores of churches and schools willing to house homeless people overnight.

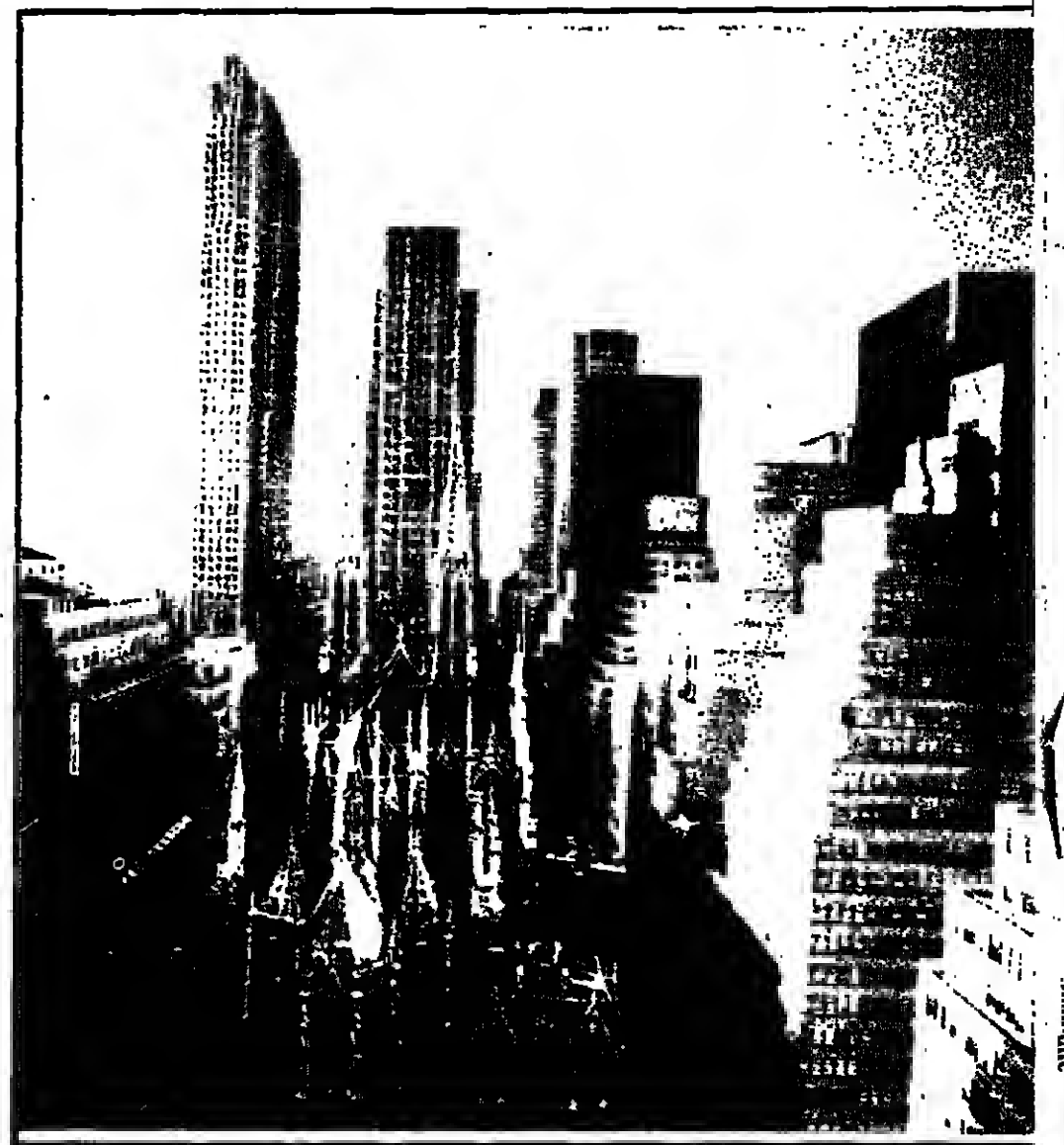
In Washington, city officials are asking citizens to donate blankets, clothing and space in their houses to the homeless by contacting a church-run group.

The Roman Catholic archdiocese in Denver opened a closed-down school to shelter 400 homeless. In Kansas City, ministers asked their congregations to open their homes.

In Detroit, where soup kitchens recently re-opened, city officials joined a coalition of other community figures to establish an emergency, 40-bed shelter in property donated by the Episcopal church.

Some local officials are appealing to airlines and produce wholesalers to put aside their unused food for distribution to the homeless.

In a few areas, officials are antagonistic to the homeless. Officials in Phoenix, Arizona, have shut all but one of the municipal shelters and passed a law making foraging garbage illegal.



New York and other big cities were the first to be hit by the homelessness problem.

TV & RADIO

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SPORTS

Would West Indians avoid African cricket tour?

ANNESBURG (R) — The sure disclosure of plans to an international cricket tour to South Africa could now ride the tour, senior cricket officials said Tuesday.

ports that a touring team, comprising former West Indies test players, would arrive next week appeared in news in several countries.

The sources said the publication was bound to bring pressure on governments and international organisations on membership of the touring party to scrap plans.

Members of last year's two tours from England and Sri Lanka were subjected to threats of a barrage of abuse from members of South Africa, led from international cricket 13 years because of its apartheid policies.

Cricket chiefs were said by the reports. While would publicly confirm or deny the tour's existence, South in Cricket Union (SACU) sent Joe Painsky said:

"comment could only do such more harm than good." sources said it was incorrect to say the tour party as a World Cup tour was intended to include West Indians in the side, said it was unlikely any of the 11 cricketers currently playing provincial teams here, including a West Indian side, be regarded here as a double. It would not only break international boycott but also illustrate that South Africa

have scrapped apartheid on their sports fields.

It was that issue which led to the international expulsion of South Africa after Prime Minister John Vorster refused to allow the scheduled 1988-89 tour by an England side which included coloured player Basil d'Oliveira.

Should the forthcoming tour go ahead, one member is almost certain to be former West Indies captain Alvin Kallicharran, currently playing for Transvaal Province.

Left hander Kallicharran exiled himself from West Indian cricket by playing in South Africa, yet still remains one of the most vociferous opponents of any moves to readmit the republic to international cricket.

Other players named as likely tour members included Sylvester Clarke, Wayne Daniel, Collis King, Lawrence Rowe, Faoud Bacchus, Albert Padmore, Richard Austin, Jim Allen, Emerson Trotman, Roland Butcher and Monie Lynch.

Brazil to clash with West Germany on European tour

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Three-time World Soccer Champions Brazil will play this year's European tour during their European tour, a spokesman for the Brazilian Football Association said Tuesday.

The June tour will also include

Sources said the list "could be more or less correct."

According to reports the tourists were expected to arrive on Monday, but sources said this was not yet definite and plans might have to be changed because of the premature publicity.

Painsky said it was SACU's policy to bring international sides to South Africa and safeguard the interests and future of touring players.

Members of the English team captained by Graham Gooch were barred from international cricket for three years after their tour, and the Sri Lankan squad were suspended from the game for 25 years.

Fees paid to the players have never been disclosed but estimates quoted here said the English side were paid up to \$80,000 each and the Sri Lankans up to \$40,000. The estimates have not been denied.

But both tours proved a financial flop—the seven-week visit by the Sri Lankans showing a loss of \$500,000.

matches against Switzerland, Sweden and Portugal.

The following dates have been arranged: June 8 against Portugal in Lisbon, June 13 against West Germany (venue undecided), June 17 against Switzerland in Basel, June 22 against Sweden in Gothenburg.

A special match between the Brazilian and Swedish teams which met in the 1958 World Cup final is being arranged for June 21 in Stockholm.

Brazil, who won the match 5-2, are hoping to field most of the side that played in final: Gilmar, Djalma Santos, Belone, Orlando, Nilton Santos, Zito, Didi, Vava, Pele and Zagalo.

The only doubt is Garrincha, who has suffered problems with his health, the spokesman said.

Italian soccer club Fiorentina plunges into financial set-back

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — The wealthy Pontello family from Florence, piqued when football fans hurled insults at their directors' box, have plunged Fiorentina into turmoil by announcing they will sell their controlling interest this year.

The decision, described by club President Ranieri Pontello as irrevocable, marks the end of a two-year golden period which took Fiorentina from struggling poverty to within one point of the Italian League Championship last season.

The Pontello family millions, earned in construction and engineering from the banks of the River Arno to Australia, were used to buy players like Francesco Graziani and Argentine captain Daniel Passarella.

Fiorentina, twice Italian Champions and winners of the first European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1961, had fallen on hard times when the Pontellos took over two years ago. But their fall from grace was complete when fans, angered at the 1-1 draw against Verona, shouted abuse and insults at count Ranieri's box in the stadium.

"I can understand the young fans," said the 34-year-old count. "But they were encouraged by club members and city officials sitting nearby and we cannot accept this public show of disapproval."

Now the entire board, including Count Ranieri and two relatives, will resign on January 10 and the family will sell its 60 per cent controlling interest, the president said.

The Pontello withdrawal is seri-

ous news for Fiorentina. The family empire has an annual turnover exceeding 150 billion lire (\$100 million) and is the only enterprise in Florence which can afford the luxury of running a football club.

Club captain and international midfielder Giancarlo Antognoni summed up the mood of the players when he said: "Without them we risk falling back into the poverty they found us in."

The Pontellos' controlling stake in Fiorentina is valued at around six billion lire (about \$4 million).

One name which has been mentioned is that of fashion designer and Fiorentina fan Emilio Pucci but he said: "It's true my name was put forward once... but I haven't the experience, time or money."

Count Ranieri met the players last Monday to explain his decision and assured them that the club would honour all its obligations pending the election of a new board.

If no buyer emerges Fiorentina might be forced to follow the example of several other Italian clubs and sign sponsorship deals with out-of-town companies.

The Pontello family has been criticised for allowing Fiorentina to be outmanoeuvred by rivals Juventus, Roma and Internazionale in the fiercely competitive transfer market.

But Graziani is hopeful they may change their minds if Fiorentina, out of the Italian and UEFA Cup competitions and trailing six points behind Roma in the league, can stage a successful run this month.

The count has stressed however that the family's snap decision was not because of recent poor results and will quit regardless of Fiorentina's results in the League games before January 11.

"Club members made it clear they had no confidence in us and we accepted their decision," he said, adding: "I don't want to stay in paradise if I offend the saints."

But it would not be Florence without whispers of political intrigue and influence peddling.

One of the Pontellos, count Ranieri's uncle Claudio, once headed the Christian Democratic group in the ancient palace where the Florence city government meets.

The Pontellos have denied they planned to use a winning football team as a platform to regain control from the Communists.

But the count's bitter comment that "the council has done next to nothing to help the club" prompted an immediate response from Communist Mayor Elio Gabbiani.

"We struck a special medal for their last season and have always tried to help," said the mayor.

Artist Pietro Annigoni was one of three illustrious Florentines to criticise the Pontello decision.

"I think they're using this as an excuse to get out of a job which has proved trickier than they expected," he said.

And Pucci and film director Franco Zeffirelli both said the Pontellos should not quit simply because they had run into criticism.

Australia dominates play in final test against England

SYDNEY (R) — Australia, with their fast bowlers again playing a dominant role, held the edge after a compelling third day in the decisive fifth and final cricket test against England here Tuesday.

A spirited century partnership between England's David Gower and Derek Randall, penetrating fast bowling by Jeff Thomson and combative outcries by the touring team in the final session absorbed another big crowd.

England were lifted by a fourth wicket stand of 122 in 132 minutes by Gower and Randall, who each hit 70 and took the score to 146 for three at one stage before Thomson undermined the rest of the innings.

Thomson grabbed five for 50 as England were dismissed for 237 and Australia gained a first innings lead of 77 which they extended to 167 by making 90 for

three in their second innings at the close.

Australia, leading 2-1, need only a draw to regain the Ashes they lost in England in 1977 but the touring side must win to level the series and keep the coveted trophy. Play resumes on Thursday after Wednesday's rest day.

England's outside chance of following their three-run win in the fourth test with a triumph here was kept alive partly by two superb catches by Gower and Randall when Australia batted again immediately after tea.

John Dyson, who scored 79 in the first innings, fell to Bob Willis for two when Gower leaped to his left for a one-handed catch at third slip with the total 23.

Randall's swift reaction at short backward square leg enabled him to pull off a catch from what looked like a safe pull shot by

skipper Greg Chappell against off spinner Eddie Hemmings.

Chappell was out for 11 to make the score 38 for two, but Kepler Wessels renewed Australia's initiative by carrying the attack to the bowlers and struck 53 in 116 minutes before he was lbw to all-rounder Ian Botham.

Australia, then 82 for three, had to fight hard to survive the final phase, with umpire Dick French rejecting England's confident appeals for a catch by Geoff Cook at forward short leg when Kim Hughes played defensively to off spinner Geoff Miller in the last over.

When England resumed at 76 for three Tuesday morning, Gower and Randall sustained in positive style the recovery they started Monday at 24 for three.

Randall, his confidence seemingly unaffected after being struck in the face by a delivery from West Indian Michael Holding in Tasmania recently, completed his half century in 96 minutes.

Off spinner Bruce Yardley bore the brunt of the punishment and conceded 32 in six overs, but Thomson put a brake on the scoring and also made the breakthrough.

TENNIS TALK

Universal warm-ups

By Maureen Stalla

TODAY'S COLUMN is devoted to the second half of the universal warm-ups taken from Jack Rockwell, a physical therapist and associate director of the Center for Sports Medicine at St. Francis Memorial Hospital. These exercises are to be done after the seven exercises described in detail last week. Remember to go slowly and don't bounce. They are suitable for all men, women and children. However, if you have health problems it is best to check with your physician.

8) Knee-Nose Touch (for lower back): Lie on your back on the floor or ground. Bend your knees. Reach forward with both hands and grasp one leg behind the knee (if you hold the top of the knee you may put too much stress on it). Bring the knee toward your head as you bend your neck and back to meet it.

9) Killer Sit Up: Lie on your back, knees bent, feet flat on the floor. Flatten the small of your back into the floor. Put your hand behind your head, tuck your chin into your chest, and slowly roll yourself up to a 30 or 40 degree angle from the floor. The angle is critical—too little or too much and the exercise is not effective. The way you know you have the spot is that it should be excruciatingly hard. The muscles will probably start to quiver from the start. Nevermind—hold for a slow ten count and relax back to the floor slowly. Keep your knees bent to prevent injury to your lowerback. It is said that one killer sit up is the equivalent of twenty regular sit ups.

10) Push Up: Lie on the floor, prone, with the weight of your body supported on your flexed toes and your hands. Keep your hands under the outer edges of your shoulders and your whole body stiff as a board. Slowly straighten your arms to raise your body; then slowly lower yourself. Take ten counts to get up and ten counts to get down.

11) Airplane: Stand up, feet comfortably apart, extend your arms to the sides, shoulder height. Turn slowly to the right and then to the left... taking five counts in each direction, two to three times.

12) Windmill: Stand with feet about shoulder width apart. Extend your arms out to the sides. Keeping your legs straight, slowly reach down with your right hand to touch your left toe as your left arm goes straight up in the air behind you. Work slowly taking a four count to get down and another four count to get up again. Repeat with your left arm and right foot.

13) Sky Reach: Stand with your feet comfortably apart. Raise your hands over your head. With one hand, try to reach the ceiling, going on tiptoes and stretching that whole side of your body. Repeat with your other arm. Do this slowly four or five times.

14) Chicken Flap: Stand with feet comfortably apart. With elbows bent swing and flap your arms around, hug yourself, reach your arms back behind you as far as you can go without strain and then flap your arms again. Many people do this as they run during their warm up jog, or take practice swings with the racket.

To prevent muscle soreness it is a good idea to cool down after tennis or exercise. The fast burst of strength required for tennis shortens muscles; a cool down stretches them out again. Cool down can be the same as warm-ups but the key is always to go slow and easy.

Pat Cash to play for Australia in Davis Cup

MELBOURNE (R) — Seventeen-year-old Pat Cash, Wimbledon and U.S. junior champion, was chosen for Australia's Davis Cup team to meet England in Adelaide in March.

The team, announced by Davis Cup captain Neale Fraser, also includes John Alexander, Paul McNamee and Mark Edmondson. John Fitzgerald, whose recent form has been erratic, has been dropped.

Cash, who has struck phenomenal success for a junior on the Australian circuit over the past six weeks, will be the youngest member of an Australian Davis Cup team since Alexander was included in 1968.

He was a quarter-finalist in the Australian Open and South Australian Open Championships and semi-finalist in the Melbourne indoor and won the Victorian Open Championships. There have been doubts over

the fitness of both McNamee and Edmondson, who withdrew from the Victorian Open this week. But Fraser said he had spoken to both players and they assured him they would be fit.

The dropping of Fitzgerald means that Australia will face England in the first round tie without an established doubles combination. Fitzgerald and Alexander are the Australian Open doubles champions.

But Fraser said: "We have two or three doubles combinations in mind and we haven't relied on established pairs for the last few years."

He said that the doubles would revolve round Edmondson—"one of the greatest doubles players in the world"—and someone else.

Fraser said that Peter McNamara, another of Australia's leading players, had confirmed that he was not available for the match against England.

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN
THE JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER CO. LTD.
INFORCEMENT OF SUBTRANSMISSION SYSTEM

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID FOR 33/11KV INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SUBSTATION EQUIPMENT

Jordanian Electric Power Co. Ltd., (JEPCO) intends to force its electrical power subtransmission system in man and therefore invites qualified and experienced is to bid for the following supply and delivery equipment tracts:-

P. 870: 33/11KV SUBSTATIONS AT MEDICAL CITY, ABU NUSAIR AND ADI SAQRA

Equipment is to consist of 33, 11 & 0.4 KV Indoor switchgear and ancillary equipment.

P. 871: Ten Sets 33/11KV Substation equipment for outdoor Switchyards at aviation, Iqa, Free Zone Area, Hisban, Amman Int. Air, Royal Scientific Society, Ruseifa Main, It Town Industrial, Sahab City and Sahab Industrial Estate.

Equipment is to consist of 33KV Outdoor Circuit Breakers, rent Transformers, Voltage Transformers, 11 KV Package stations and ancillary equipment. JEPCO has applied for a loan from the European Investment Bank to finance JEP. 870 and JEP. 871.

ELIGIBILITY

Firms with proven ability in undertaking similar contracts originating at least from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the member states of the European Economic Community will be eligible to submit tenders.

AVAILABILITY OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

The Tender Documents will be available for inspection at Jordanian Electric Power Co's offices in Amman from Tuesday, 5th January 1983, and may also be inspected purchased from Kennedy & Donkin in Woking at the rates given below, from the same day. Applications for documents should be accompanied by a refundable fee of £50 for each set of Tender Documents per contract.

Jordanian Electric Power Co. Ltd.,
Box 618,
Central First Circle,
Amman,
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
x No. 21507 JEPCO JO

Kennedy & Donkin,
Consulting Engineers,
Riverside House,
Surrey, GU21 1DG,
England.
x No. 859373 KDHO G

MISSION OF TENDERS

Tenders are to be prepared in English and must be accompanied in duplicate. The 'Master' Tender is to be returned to Kennedy & Donkin, Consulting Engineers. The 'Copy' Tender is to be returned to JEPCO in Amman.

Tenders are to be submitted by 12.00 hours local time Tuesday 22nd March 1983, and they will be opened at 10.00 hours on the same day. Tender's Representatives may attend.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171



FOR QUICK SALE

Chevrolet station wagon, model 1978. One owner 30,000 kilometres, automatic transmission and power steering. Customs duty not paid. Excellent condition.

Phone 660460 - 660461
price \$3,000

THE GOVERNMENT TENDERING DIRECTORATE ANNOUNCEMENT TENDERING MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The Central Tendering Committee announces the tendering of the following buildings:

- 1- Extension of Howara Community College (Area 2400m²)
- 2- Extension of Salt Community College (Area 1250m²)
- 3- Extension of Marka Polytechnic (Area 970m²).

All classified contractors for 1982 in the Ministry of Public Works as Class A and B General and buildings, and all international contracting firms registered at the INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION are invited to get copies of the tendering documents from the Project Implementation Unit, the Ministry of Education (behind Public Security offices, Tel: 661166) against a non-refundable fee of JD 25 for every copy of each school.

Last date for obtaining the tender documents is Tuesday, Jan. 25, 1983 before 12 O'clock noon.

Last date for receiving tendering documents is Thursday, Feb. 3, 1983, before 12 O'clock noon at the Project Implementation Unit—Ministry of Education.

Notes:

- 1) All tenderers has to submit their offers in two separate envelopes; the first containing their qualification documents and technical offer including time schedule, equipment, previous experience and workload and the second containing the financial offer and the priced bill of quantities.
- 2) The cost of this announcement will be paid by the selected tenderer.
- 3) All tenderers has to fill the prices in the bill of quantities both in numbers and writing.

Chairman of the Central Tendering Committee
General Director of the Government Tendering Directorate.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Deluxe furnished apartment consists of two bedrooms, salon and sitting room. Centrally heated and with telephone. All accessories are available.

Location: Al Hussein Housing Estate
Tel 664669, 23635

FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE Jabal Luweibdeh Tel: 37009, 36445

FRENCH LANGUAGE CLASSES

Registration for language classes at all levels for the first term of 1983 will take place from Monday 20/12/82 till Thursday 23/12/82 and from Monday 31/1/83 till Thursday 6/1/83. The courses will start Saturday 8/1/1983.

BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN

Meeting 10 a.m., Jan. 5, 1983, Regency Palace Hotel. See old friends and make new ones.

Cash available

THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF DIPLOMATS

is pleased to announce

THE ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY PARTY

Date: January 6, 1983 Place: Hala Inn
Time: 8:00 p.m. Jabal Amman

ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME

WANTED

A commercial company in Amman has the following vacancies in and outside Amman:

- a) 5 secretaries with good command of Arabic and English typing and fluent in spoken and written English and well versed in telex and filing.
- b) Office manager (male or female). He or she should be a university graduate. Those with experience in business administration and office management will be given preference.

Experience is necessary and salaries according to qualifications.

Please report in person to Al Qasr hotel from 10.00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m. For further information, please call Tel: 666140.

ECONOMY

Businessmen see good prospects for trade with China

PEKING (R) — Western businessmen in Peking, after several years of despondency, are now cautiously optimistic about prospects for increased export business with China.

They expressed satisfaction at the recent announcement that China's imports would rise by 25.3 per cent in 1983 after a 1.9 per cent drop the previous year, the first fall since 1976.

The economic retrenchment programme introduced in the late 1970s, with its heavy spending cuts, greatly disappointed foreign businessmen who had high hopes of making lucrative deals in China's virtually untapped market of one billion people.

But the cuts also led to fast growth in China's foreign exchange holdings, which totalled \$9.23 billion at the end of September — a remarkably high level compared with other developing countries desperately short of foreign currency.

Bankers in Peking are divided about what China plans to do with

this wealth, much of which is derived from invisible earnings such as remittances from overseas Chinese, shipping and insurance.

Western bankers estimate China will need to attract \$20 billion in foreign investment up to 1990 in order to exploit its offshore oil.

Foreign oil companies hope contracts for this will be awarded in 1983, although commercial production is unlikely to start until the end of the decade.

China badly needs to open new oil reserves because its onshore output is now stagnant at two million barrels per day, while demand is rising.

Foreign businessmen and diplomats agree that some of the best prospects for exports to China are in the energy and transport sectors.

Premier Zhao Ziyang said recently these would attract 38.5 per cent of the 230 billion yuan (\$118 billion) allotted for capital investment in the 1981-85 five-year economic plan. He did not say

whether this figure included foreign investment.

The Communist Party newspaper People's Daily also offered some hope of a revival of imports in a New Year's eve editorial.

It called on state-run trading houses to take advantage of the recession in the West to obtain cheap imports.

But it also called for greater barriers against certain goods such as consumer products to boost its own industries.

The outlook for the domestic economy is mixed, according to Western diplomats who pointed to marked successes in agriculture but said there were serious problems on the industrial front.

Harvests of most crops were expected to have reached record levels in 1982, as a result of the system implemented in the last few years which allows peasants to sell on the free market produce they grow in excess of state quotas.

Industry has long been a problem for Chinese planners, especially deciding what balance to

aim for between light and heavy industry and how to achieve it.

Diplomats noted that although heavy industry was planned to grow by one per cent in 1982 over 1981, it actually rose by nine per cent. This indicated that planners had failed to control this sector and it was likely to lead to serious bottlenecks and waste, they said.

Premier Zhao called attention to the problem of ambitious projects being revived following a slight relaxation of financial controls, and said they led to serious overspending and waste.

Meanwhile, friction over Chinese textile exports to the United States could lead to increased political tension if the two sides do not reach agreement soon, Western diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

They said that if negotiations on China's soaring textile sales to the U.S. failed, this could cast a shadow over Secretary of State Mr. George Shultz's visit to Peking next month.

Talks due to begin on Thursday in Peking are aimed at reaching an accord after the previous three-year agreement expired on Dec. 31.

The Reagan administration announced last week it would act unilaterally to curb Chinese textile exports to the U.S. on Jan. 15 if the two sides failed to reach a new agreement.

Western diplomats said China could use the textile issue as a lever for further concessions over Taiwan, a possibility Peking hinted at on Sunday when it threatened to react strongly if Washington imposed unilateral restrictions on textiles.

Chinese textile sales to the U.S. negligible a few years ago, totalled \$686.6 million or 10.4 per cent of all American textile imports in 1981, against \$539.5 million in 1980.

In the first 10 months of last year, they soared a further 32 per cent compared with the same period in 1981, according to official U.S. figures.

China was the fourth biggest

supplier of textiles to the U.S. in 1981, after Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea.

Diplomats said these three had agreed to raise their exports by an average of only 0.7 per cent for restricted categories on a yardage basis, but China wanted to increase its sales of such goods by six to seven per cent as under the last agreement.

They said China wanted to be treated differently from the others because it was poorer, had broken into the U.S. market later and had recently suffered big trade deficits with the U.S.

The Chinese had also argued with some justification that their textile sales could indirectly boost U.S. exports to China as they were an important source of foreign exchange, the diplomats said.

But they pointed out that President Reagan was committed to halting the recession-hit U.S. textile industry and to linking imports to the growth of the home market, which was expanding by only one to 1.5 per cent annually.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 5, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will have an excellent chance to express your talents in a direct manner now, so make a point to contact those who are in a position to help you. Strive to be more successful.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Ideal day to be where you can gain knowledge and advance in career activities. Show more devotion to family members.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study the best way to carry through with any agreements you have made and get the right results. Be wise.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Figure out how to have better relations with allies. Be more willing to compromise at home for the sake of harmony.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Find a more up-to-date system for handling your obligations and you have greater efficiency and benefits.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Planning social events and recreations for the future is wise at this time. Study outlets that can give you added income.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Look into new interests through which to better express yourself. Take treatments to improve health and appearance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Use a new system and improve your regular routines. Go to the right sources for the information you need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make plans that could give you more abundance in the future. Try not to argue with others in the evening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are now able to get the backing of higher-ups in a new project you have in mind. Express happiness tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Making needed changes where your work is concerned will bring good results at this time. Be logical.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be your own gregarious self and express happiness with all the friends you can. Take no risks in money.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Have serious talks with associates so that you can take advantage of a new situation. Be more reassuring to loved one.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have many fine talents and should have the advantage of a fine education to make the most of them, and then much success is possible. Give good religious training. A sports-minded person in this chart.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Qatar will maintain oil output

DOHA (R) — The Gulf state of Qatar will maintain its current oil production and price level until the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries decides on a change, the daily Gulf Times said Tuesday. The paper quoted a reliable source as discounting predictions that some member states of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council might cut the price of their oil to win a larger share of the world oil market.

EEC extends cheap butter tender

BRUSSELS (R) — The Soviet Union will have a second chance to buy cheap butter from the European Community after failing to take up the opportunity last month. Community officials said Monday. A sales tender for 25,000 tonnes of subsidised butter from Common Market surpluses has been extended until Jan. 10, the officials said.

Romania withholds debt repayment

FRANKFURT (R) — Romania has informed its major Western creditor banks it will withhold debt repayments this year of over \$1 billion until a rescheduling agreement is worked out, bankers said Monday.

Portugal ups petrol prices

LISBON (R) — The outgoing government of Prime Minister Francisco Pinto Balsemão Monday raised the price of petrol by 18 per cent and announced the cost of public transport would rise by up to 30 per cent on Friday.

U.S. economy may stage mild recovery

NEW YORK (R) — Many American economists believe the U.S. economy will stage a mild recovery over the next six months, spurred initially by declining interest rates.

Economists surveyed by Reuters said rates should drop from current levels by the end of the 1983 first quarter, helped by further half-point cuts in the discount rate, which the Federal Reserve Board (Fed) charges its member banks. This now stands at 11 1/2 per cent.

They said the Fed would lower its lending rate and let market interest rates drop to help edge the economy towards recovery.

The economists said recovery in the first few months of the new year might send interest rates up slightly in the second quarter as improving prosperity increased the demand for private and public borrowing.

They also said rates could rise to near or slightly above current levels by the end of 1983, depending on the degree to which the Fed increased monetary restraint because of a recovering economy.

The economists said inflation this year should remain at about the five per cent level estimated for 1982 and would not be a problem. It would take a tremendous interest rate drop to spur a recovery strong enough to rekindle inflation significantly, they said.

Their average forecast was that the commercial prime rate would decline to about 10 1/4 per cent by the end of March. It is currently just over 11 per cent.

The federal funds rate, which banks charge each other on overnight loans, was expected to fall to about 7 1/2 per cent in the same period. It is now around nine per cent.

The economists generally agreed that interest rates during 1983 would not drop as sharply as last year.

W. German jobless rate soars to 9.1%

BONN (R) — West German unemployment rose sharply to 2.22 million in December with both government leaders and private forecasters predicting a higher total before general elections expected on March 6.

Aware that unemployment will be a key election issue, senior officials in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition government have said repeatedly that the figure would reach 2.5 million by the end of February.

The December figure announced by the Federal Labour Office, represented 9.1 per cent of the labour force and was up from 2.04 million or 8.4 per cent in November. It was the highest monthly total since February, 1955.

The Kohl government, which took office on Oct. 1, has emphasised that the jobless rate was already rising at that time.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares moved a little firmer in dull trading after opening slightly easier in response to Monday's falls on Wall Street, dealers said. The F.T. index at 1500 was up 0.6 at 597.3.

Among the leaders Plessey was unchanged at 609 after 611 following news that it has signed an agreement with Scientific Atlanta Inc. to exploit markets in satellite and cable communications equipment. UDS was up 7p at 96 following an offer for the company from the newly formed Bassishaw Investment.

Gold shares were firm while American shares were lower. Government bonds were higher in quiet trading after the Bank of England's estimated money supply figures were at the more bullish end of market expectations, dealers said. Shorts were up 5/16 point while longer dated issues rose by around 1/8 point.

Hoover was up 13p at 120 following a broker recommendation while Tozer Kemsley rose 1p to 27 after the resignation of its managing director and on news of the company's proposed restructuring. Trusthouse Forte was up 1p at 161 after news that it is to sell three hotels and Anderson Strathclyde fell 3p at 166 after the conditional offer for National Mine Service.

Oils were generally mixed while banks were lower.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.6260/70	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2282/85	Canadian dollars
	2.3543/53	West German marks
	2.6020/30	Dutch guilders
	1.9760/75	Swiss francs
	46.29/34	Belgian francs
	6.6740/60	French francs
	1357.75/1358.25	Italian lire
	228.85/229.00	Japanese yen
	7.2480/2500	Swedish crowns
	6.9740/60	Norwegian crowns
	8.3080/3105	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	453.00/454.00	U.S. dollars

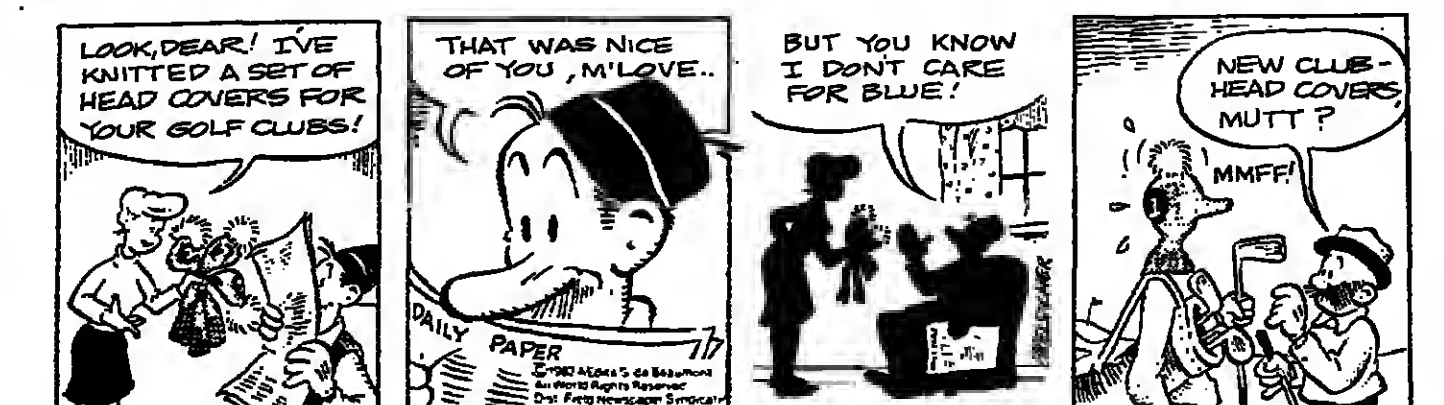
THE BETTER HALF By Harris



Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



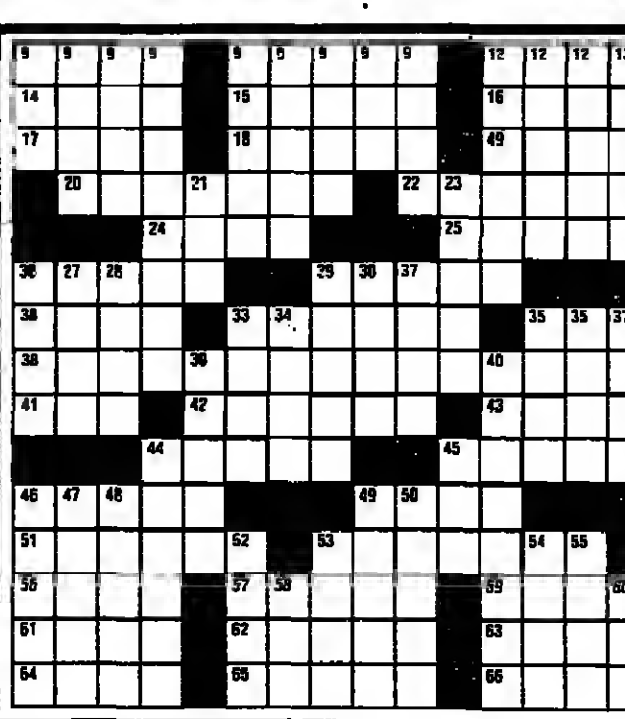
Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword by Lee C. Jones

ACROSS

- Helping of whipped cream
- Boothe
- Spruce
- Born's stream
- Artery
- Novada city
- Watson's game
- Singer from Wales
- Saw-toothed
- Royal
- Tourist
- Western movie
- Grable's handleader
- Petty officer
- Insect
- Wander idly
- Theme of this puzzle
- Wine prof.
- Brie, a.g.
- Pleasant
- Anchors
- Jots
- Palindromic title
- Gang
- Relatives of hogbacks
- An FDR envoy
- Salamander
- Turn inside out
- Gridiron defense
- Arrow
- Poison
- Problem for "Pauline"
- Thames town
- Voice votes
- Comic strip detective
- Presentences, for short
- DOWN
- Joka
- Ventiane's land
- Horadric border
- Help
- Louisiana native
- Plunders
- Composer of "Rule Britannia"
- 1 or 66
- Alleviate
- Part of HST
- Mada bright again
- Empty
- Hopeless one
- Hospital personnel abbr.
- Crude
- Ballet leap
- Stratford's stream
- Written reminder
- Burns' were
- bonnie
- Holds
- Faction
- Resound
- Winnie the Pooh's 100 — Woods
- Courage
- Sacred chest
- Colors
- to bury Caesar —
- Coated metal in a way
- Dull finishes
- Sign
- "Our — Havane"
- Fight site
- Opponent of 10D
- acid
- Fittingly
- Pict clan
- Zeus' wife
- Eminence
- Snoopy one
- 68 N. Eng. state
- USNA grad.



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WORLD

NATO missile plans central to Warsaw Pact agenda in Prague

VIENNA (R) — Warsaw Pact leaders met in summit session in Prague Tuesday, as Communist commentators foreshadowed a major campaign to thwart NATO plans for deploying new nuclear missiles.

The official Czechoslovak news agency said Soviet leader Yuri Andropov and Communist Party and government chiefs of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland, Romania and Hungary assembled at a meeting of the alliance's political consultative committee.

A brief message by the Ceteke news agency said simply that the two-day session had begun in Prague's 13th century Hradcany castle and listed the delegation leaders.

In addition to Mr. Andropov, they are Todor Zhivkov of Bulgaria, Gustav Husak of Czechoslovakia, Erich Honecker of East Germany, Janos Kadar of

Hungary, Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski of Poland and Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania.

The delegations also included prime ministers, defence ministers and foreign ministers.

The Warsaw Pact's Soviet commander-in-chief, Marshal Viktor Kulikov, headed a delegation from the supreme command of its combined armed forces.

It is the first formal Eastern bloc summit meeting since May 1980, and Mr. Andropov's first mission abroad since becoming Soviet party leader last November.

The session is being held in strict privacy, and no details of the agenda have been published. But Western analysts believe it will map out the alliance's foreign and internal policies, and launch a concerted "peace offensive" aimed at encouraging Western peace movements and influencing the attitudes of Western gov-

ernments to deployment of new U.S. missiles on their territory. A Prague radio report said the meeting would evaluate developments since the last summit and assess the present international situation.

It will also set out the most important tasks facing Soviet bloc states in efforts to avoid the danger of nuclear war, maintain and improve détente, safeguard security, and expand cooperation, the radio said.

In Sofia, a leading Bulgarian daily, Zemedelsko Zname, said the session was of great importance because, at present, persistent efforts and measures were needed to avert the danger of a thermo-nuclear catastrophe.

The newspaper said pact member-states would reaffirm their consistent peaceful policy. The most recent expression of this, it added, was an offer last month by Mr. Andropov to reduce

Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe to the same level as those of Britain and France combined, provided NATO scrapped its new deployment scheme.

According to Western estimates, this would mean a reduction from about 600 Soviet missiles to about 160.

In Warsaw, the Polish army newspaper Zolnierz Wolnosci said the words used most often in reports and commentaries on the Prague summit would be peace, disarmament and peaceful co-existence.

All the main Polish papers carried a front-page picture of Poland's military leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski arriving at Prague airport wearing his usual dark-tinted glasses, a dapper turtleneck and a civilian overcoat.

The Polish news agency PAP reported that Gen. Jaruzelski presided over the opening session at which Mr. Husak spoke.

Mrs. Thatcher allegedly exonerated of all blame for Falklands debacle

LONDON (R) — An official inquiry investigating why Britain was caught off guard by the Falklands war has exonerated Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher from any direct blame, the London Daily Mail reported Tuesday.

The newspaper also said the conflict might have been averted if the government had been quicker off the mark and sent a nuclear submarine to intercept the Argentine invasion fleet.

The inquiry by a six-man committee led by Lord Franks completed its investigation at the end of last year and has delivered its 100,000-word report to Mrs. Thatcher. But it will not be published until later this month and the Mail story could not be independently confirmed.

The paper, which supports Mrs. Thatcher and her Conservative Party, said the Foreign Office emerged from the report with its reputation mangled. The government bureaucracy failed to respond to warnings from the British embassy in Buenos Aires of the impending invasion, it said.

The Mail added that while no direct blame was attached to Mrs. Thatcher, she ultimately carried responsibility as prime minister for intelligence and analysis of information.

Argentine politicians want Falkland Islands retaken

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine political leaders, in speeches marking the 150th anniversary of British rule on the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands, Monday said Argentina should not rule out another invasion of the islands if peaceful methods failed to recover them.

But leaders of the country's main political parties told the independent news agency Noticias Argentinas that Argentina should make every effort to gain control of the Falklands by peaceful means.

Argentina seized the Falklands last April in pursuit of a long-standing claim to sovereignty over the south Atlantic archipelago, but a British seaborne force recaptured the islands in June.

"A new armed intervention in the islands should not be ruled out," Francisco Manrique, leader of the centre-right federal party, told Noticias Argentinas.

Leaders of the Peronists and Radicals, Argentina's two largest political parties, emphasised that

force should only be used in the last resort.

"We would make any future military action conditional on a decision of the people expressed through congress," said Peronist leader Deolindo Bittel.

"Military attack should be a final position after all procedures to avoid another confrontation have been exhausted," Radical politician Ruben Rabanal stressed.

The 150th anniversary of Britain's seizure of the Falklands passed off quietly in Argentina with a number of small ceremonies being held to honour the hundreds of Argentine servicemen who died the last year's conflict with Britain.

Nearly all Argentine newspapers carried front page headlines reminding their readers of the 150th anniversary of Argentina's loss of the Falklands.

"Figs, get out of our Malvinas," said the popular tabloid Cronica in a front-page headline.

Barre vows support for Somali rebels

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre pledged continued support Tuesday for guerrillas fighting for autonomy in various parts of Ethiopia.

The Somali leader said in a national broadcast that he would continue to support the rebels "materially and morally" until they had been granted self-determination by the "colonial" Addis Ababa authorities.

Somalia, a bitter ideological foe of its Marxist neighbour, backs Western Somali Liberation Front (WSLF) rebels fighting for the independence of the Ogaden Desert region where the two countries have long waged a border conflict.

Secessionist guerrillas fighting for the autonomy of the northern Ethiopian province of Tigray and the central province of Tigra also have offices in Mogadishu.

WSLF Secretary-General Abdirasik Sheikh Aden told Reuters Tuesday that his rebel forces were about to resume hit-and-run operations in the Ogaden after a lull of about six months.

He said he had received intelligence reports that Soviet ML-24 helicopters of the sort used by Soviet troops in Afghanistan were being assembled in Jijiga, the main town of the Ogaden, and that Soviet personnel were training Ethiopians to fly them.

Abdirasik Sheikh Aden said the helicopters could be used either to strike at WSLF rebels in the Ogaden or against their bases in Somalia.

Somalia and Ethiopia fought a full-scale war over the Ogaden, which is inhabited mainly by ethnic Somali nomads, in the late 1970s when the Ethiopians won with the help of Cuban troops and Soviet arms.

Philippines journalists' trial resumes

MANILA (R) — A Filipino intelligence chief said Tuesday he had recommended drastic action against an opposition newspaper because it advocated violent overthrow of the government.

Col. Balbino Diego's statements were contained in a memorandum which was made public when the trial of We Forum publisher-editor Jose Burgos and nine of his staff resumed.

The 10 journalists are facing subversion charges. They were arrested on a presidential commitment order during a raid on We Forum's offices on Dec. 7.

Col. Diego, chief legal and intelligence officer of the presidential security command, affirmed the contents of his memorandum as the prosecution's first witness.

Under cross-examination, Col. Diego said freedom of expression had its limits because the state had the right to protect itself against organisations which posed a danger to its security.

"Freedom of expression ends where my nose begins," he told the court.

The killing of the Christian Democratic statesman and 13 political officials between 1977 and 1981, these splits have been symbolised by the appearance of repentants like Savasta and hardliners like Mario Moretti in separate, heavily-barred enclosures.

"One of the most encouraging signs is the constant increase in repentants and defections," Mr. Rognoni said.

As a further indication of the Brigades' difficulties, Rome attorney Gen. Franz Sesi issued a statement in December saying the courts were booked up for months ahead with trials of suspected guerrillas, and it might be unconstitutional to hold some of them in provisional detention much longer.

Increasing defections

The Moro trial has been an elaborate affair which the state has effectively billed as a demonstration that it has broken the back of the Red Brigades.

State prosecutor Nicola Amato this month requested life sentences for 34 alleged leading Brigades members accused of planning and executing what is seen as their most daring and successful operation.

But while their imprisonment would be a heavy blow to the organisation, the extraordinary security in which the trial is being held in a fortified garrison appears to show that the spectre of the Brigades continues to haunt Italy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

One-third of Soviet pensioners at work

MOSCOW (R) — A third of all Soviet pensioners now stay on at work after retirement age, but this figure should be increased still further in the 1980s, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Tuesday. Reviewing the employment of the elderly in mines, factories, farms and shops, Pravda said the number of working pensioners had grown sharply in the past three years and was now around eight million — 32 per cent of all retired people. Retirement age is 60 for men and 55 for women in the Soviet Union. Pravda said people stayed at work because they did not want a life of inactivity or in order to supplement their pensions.

Haiti identifies bomb attacker

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — The Haitian government said Monday night a U.S. citizen of Jamaican descent set off a car bomb near the presidential palace which killed himself and fatally injured two others. In the first official comment on the New Year's day blast, Defence and Interior Minister Roger Lafontant said Allan Mills, whom he described as a U.S. citizen of Jamaican ancestry, was responsible for the "terrorist act."

S. Korean beggar arrested for arson

SEOUL (R) — A beggar badly burned in a blaze three years ago has been arrested for setting fire to three churches and a hotel in southeast Korea in which 10 people died, police said Tuesday. They said Park Jang-Su, 23, arrested Monday for setting fire to the churches in Teseo, had admitted starting the hotel blaze last week in which four Japanese were killed. Three Japanese and a Taiwanese were among the 23 people injured. Police said Park had lived as a beggar since being badly burned in a flour mill fire in 1979. They quoted him as saying he wanted to give vent to his social discontent by arson attacks and that he felt physically enthralled by the sight of towering flames.

Islamic court being drawn up

BAHRAIN (R) — Islamic experts meeting in Saudi Arabia Monday began drawing up a constitution for an Islamic court to replace the International Court of Justice in the Hague in disputes between Muslim countries, the official Saudi Press Agency reported. The experts from Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) member states hoped to draw up during their three days of talks a final draft for presentation to Islamic foreign ministers, it said. OIC Secretary-General Habib Charrat told the opening session that some of its members had already endorsed an earlier draft prepared by Kuwait while others were seeking amendments.

Another Kampuchean mass grave reported

BANGKOK (R) — Mass graves of nearly 10,000 people killed by Kampuchea's ousted Khmer Rouge regime have been discovered in western Battambang province, the Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh said Tuesday. The Heng Samrin government announced through its SPK news agency that 20 mass graves were found near an extermination centre inside a former Buddhist pagoda in Songke district. It quoted survivors as saying the Khmer Rouge had killed 40,000 to 50,000 people in the area.

Rebels black out Afghan capital

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's capital Kabul was blacked out by guerrilla attacks on power supplies and services were not back to normal a week after the raids. Western diplomats said Tuesday. The diplomats, who have access to information from their missions in Kabul, said the attacks on Dec. 27, the third anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, left Kabul in darkness for two hours.

Indian Congress (I) Party tested in 3 states today

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, under pressure because of mounting rebellion in her Congress (I) Party, faces a test of her personal popularity in elections in three states Wednesday.

More than 50 million people vote in the elections for regional assemblies in her southern bastions of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and in the Marxist-ruled northeastern state of Tripura, where she is fighting to gain a foothold.

Determined to keep her Congress Party's nearly 30-year control over the two southern states, Mrs. Gandhi, 65, has been campaigning almost single-handedly for the past 19 days.

Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh were the only two states to return her Congress (I) Party candidates in general elections in 1977, when

Mrs. Gandhi was routed in the rest of the country. She swept back to power three years later.

Mrs. Gandhi, faced with growing factionalism within her party and demands for regional autonomy, has concentrated her campaign on Andhra Pradesh, where she has her own parliamentary seat and is running into stiff opposition from a film star-politician.

N.T. Rama Rao, 60, star of nearly 300 films, has in the past year become the focus of opposition to the ruling Congress (I) with his Telugu Desam (Land of the Telugu) Party.

Mrs. Gandhi, also facing aggressive demands by Sikhs for greater autonomy in northern Punjab state, has stressed the need for a strong centre to maintain India's unity and stability.

Mondale, rivals start race for Democratic nomination

WASHINGTON (R) — Former Vice President Walter Mondale formally opened his 1984 presidential campaign Monday, nearly two years before the election, and found he already has company in the official race for the Democratic nomination.

Mr. Mondale, now regarded as the front-runner in the Democratic field, announced that he had formed a "Mondale for president committee" to start raising the millions of dollars needed to conduct a campaign for the White House.

Under U.S. campaign law, that step makes him a registered candidate even though he will not make his own personal declaration on the matter for another month or two.

Federal election officials disclosed that former Governor Reubin Askew of Florida also registered a presidential committee

Monday and that Sen. Alan Cranston of California had quietly taken a similar legal step six weeks ago.

They were expected to be joined soon by several Democratic rivals, including Sen. John Glenn of Ohio.

Because of fund-raising pressures, presidential campaigns have recently been starting earlier and lasting longer despite reformers' hopes of making them shorter.

Mr. Mondale, 55, who was vice president under Jimmy Carter from 1977-1981, has been travelling throughout the country for a full-year testing the water for a possible 1984 presidential bid.

He was running second to Sen. Edward Kennedy in the opinion polls until Mr. Kennedy withdrew from the race for personal reasons in December.

Trudeau meets Thai premier

BANGKOK (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who arrived Tuesday for a three-day official visit, is expected to sign treaties on aid and investment, an embassy spokesman said.

Mr. Trudeau, the first Canadian prime minister to visit Thailand, was met at the airport by Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda and hundreds of flag-waving children. The two prime ministers will hold talks Wednesday on regional and bilateral issues, especially trade.

Canada sees Thailand as one of the few growing markets in the world, an embassy spokesman said. Canada's trade with Thailand has increased four-fold since 1976 and both countries were hoping to increase their exports to each other, he said.

Bangkok is the first stop on Mr. Trudeau's 17-day tour of the five-member Association of South

East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Japan.

Canada hoped to "get in on the ground floor" as a trading partner with the ASEAN countries — Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — one of the world's biggest expansion areas for the 1980s, Mr. Trudeau said in Ottawa last month.

Mr. Trudeau and Gen. Prem will sign a treaty confirming a five-year aid programme for Thailand under which Canadian assistance will increase from its current level of about \$9 million to about \$18 million by 1988.

Gen. Prem and Prime Minister Trudeau are also expected to sign a treaty providing for an exchange of prisoners.

Seven Canadians are currently in Thai jails, all on drug charges, and there is one Thai in a Canadian prison, they said.

Pakistan faces severe power shortages

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's power authorities proposed Tuesday closing shopping centres at sunset and keeping many street lights switched off to cope with a severe shortage of electricity.

Other measures to be considered by the military government later this week include bans on advertising signs, staggered weekly holidays for factories and evening closing for village water wells.

The shortage is mainly owing to a winter freeze in the high mountain rivers that feed the hydroelectric dams supplying most of Pakistan's electricity.

In Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city and industrial centre, the situation is aggravated by the return of tens of thousands of workers from the Gulf with washing machines, televisions, refrigerators, and other electric equipment.

Maj. Gen. Safdar Butt, chairman of the state-run water and power development authority, said conservation measures were required for about three months until winter ended.

Authority officials said power shortages were an annual problem at this time of the year, but the crisis was worse this year because of steadily rising demand as more homes were linked to power supplies and more electrical equipment was used.

1982 police raids cripple once-mighty Red Brigades

By Roger Cohen
Reuters

ROME — Almost a year after U.S. Gen. James Lee Dozier was freed from a Red Brigades "people's prison", Italians are asking whether the police crackdown of 1982 has dealt a fatal blow to the leftist guerrilla group.

In the 11 months since the Brigades' air of invincibility was broken by the first rescue of one of its hostages, there has been a wave of arrests, confessions and defections, and no major action by the group whose self-styled war against the state has terrorised Italy for almost a decade.

Police say some 450 alleged members of the Red Brigades or allied groups have been arrested this year — including six seized in Milan over the Christmas weekend — and 1,500 are in detention.

"We now have behind us a relatively long period without major terrorist actions and a series of heavy blows against the organisation," Interior Minister Virginio Rognoni said in a newspaper interview this month.

But he cautioned against easy optimism and added that it was too early to consider the Brigades a spent force.

Spiral of recruitment

"Only when the spiral of recruitment is broken — and there are signs that it is beginning to be — will it be possible to talk of the defeat of terrorism," Mr. Rognoni

told the respected Milan daily Corriere della Sera.

With at least 10 murders attributed to the Brigades this year, over 250 leftist guerrillas still at large, and the wounds of a decade of violence far from healed, the reasons for his caution are clear.

But police and the interior ministry say 1982 has been the worst year for the Brigades since they emerged as an armed force after the student activism of the late 1960s, and might have seen a decisive crackdown on the movement.

The key to the blitz on the Brigades came last January when police freed Gen. Dozier, then senior American officer at NATO's South European Land Forces base in Verona, from a flat in the northern city of Padua after 42 days in detention.

This shattered the group's most ambitious operation since the 1978 kidnapping and murder of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro, broke its awesome mystique, and led to the crucial arrests of Brigades leaders Antonio Savasta and Emilia Libera, who have not stopped talking to police since.

Devastating blows

Acting on tip-offs from Savasta and Libera, and on a rich haul of documents found in the Padua flat and other hide-outs, police dealt devastating blows to the Veneto and Rome cells or "columns" of the Brigades in the following weeks.

The column based in the Ven-

eto, the sprawl of farmland and industry around Venice, was responsible for the abduction and murder of chemicals executive Giuseppe Tallierio last year and was regarded, like the Rome column, as one of the strongest.

Police have also made successful raids on the Milan "Walter Alasia" column, the Turin cell, and in the Naples area, where there was evidence of a bid to regroup after Gen. Dozier's release shattered the Brigades' northern organisation.

Apart from Savasta and Libera, both 27, important Brigades members captured this year include Vittorio Bolognesi, alleged leader of the Naples column, the Rome-based ideologue Giovanni Senzani, and Natalia Ligas, wanted for the Moro killing.

All these operations, police say, have been helped by the success of the new "pentiti" or repentants' law, offering lighter sentences to those prepared to talk.

The new law has brought several important confessions. But it has also aggravated divisions within the movement, complicating efforts to regroup.

To the split between the militarist wing and the so-called "movement" wing, which stresses political objectives over violence, has now been added a poisonous atmosphere of mutual suspicion fostered by divisions between the "pentiti" and the unrepentant, according to anti-terrorist police.

At the eight-month-old Moro trial, where 63 alleged Red Brigades members are being tried for

the killing of the Christian Democratic statesman and 13 political officials between 1977 and 1981, these splits have been symbolised by the appearance of repentants like Savasta and hardliners like Mario Moretti in separate, heavily-barred enclosures.

As a further indication of the Brigades' difficulties, Rome attorney Gen. Franz Sesi issued a statement in December saying the courts were booked up for months ahead with trials of suspected guerrillas, and it might be unconstitutional to hold some of them in provisional detention much longer.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠Q762 ♥553 ♦AK5 ♣983
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♦ 2 ♠ 3 ♦
3 ♠ 4 ♦ ?

What action do you take?

A.—Double, but don't expect to need an armored car to bank your winnings. Here your double is a warning to partner not to compete to four spades. With so much strength in the opponents' suit opposite known shortness in partner's hand, that's the last thing you want to bear. If you don't double, partner may infer that your values are outside the diamond suit and bid on. You should be able to beat four diamonds, and even if it's only one trick, be content.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠QJ98532 ♥82 ♣K163
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♦
Dble Pass 2 ♠ Pass
Pass 3 ♦ Pass Pass
Dble Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—When you removed partner's double of two diamonds, you informed him that you had a weak hand, unsuitable for defense, with a long spade suit. Despite that warning, partner has elected to again wield the axe against an opposing diamond contract, and this time he has doubled them into game! You must respect his decision.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQ9 ♥AJ3 ♦J762 ♣Q93
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—If you could be sure that partner was full value for his overall, you would jump to three no trump. But partner's reopening bid in the balancing position could be made with quite a weak hand, even vulnerable, so a two no trump is sufficient if partner has a sound

overall, he will go on to game.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠J83 ♥85 ♦A954 ♣10852
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—If you raise spades, there is no guarantee that partner can make eight tricks. Also, he might play you for a better hand. Nevertheless, you should raise to two spades. A preemptive raise in this type of holding is a recognized tactical move. If you pass, opener will have an easy opportunity to contest the issue, and the opponents could even get together for a game in hearts!

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠1054 ♥AKJ98 ♦84 ♣AK7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Clearly, your heart suit is good enough to rebid. Nevertheless, we would bypass that action in favor of a raise to three clubs. First, it is important to establish a fit when you have one, and that is especially true when you have such a good fit for partner's suit. Second, a raise to three clubs tends to suggest that you have a better than minimum opening bid.

Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠6 ♥AQ5 ♦AKQJ1062 ♣K5
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
3 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—We think that four diamonds is conservative, but your chances of making five diamonds are not all that bright. Four spades might have some play. For our money, however, the winning bid is three no trump. If the opponents lead either a heart or a club, you will have nine fast tricks. And even with a spade or diamond lead, you will still be a favorite — see of spades and nothing else in partner's hand assures your contract.